

THE INDEPENDENT

Nº 8,317

SATURDAY 7 JUNE 1997

WEATHER: Sunshine and showers

(R65p) 60p

JOHN McCRIRICK
Shouting the
Derby odds

The eye



THE GREAT DIANA FROCK WATCH

Comment p21



FRIPPERY IN THE CATHEDRAL

the long weekend



Victory of the lottery fat-cats

Steve Boggan

Lottery "fat cats" were celebrating victory over the Government last night after a deal was struck which allows them to keep all the bonuses that provoked last week's public outrage.

Following secret negotiations between Camelot, the lottery organiser, and the Department of National Heritage on Thursday, a deal yesterday was presented as a compromise verging on victory for the Government. However, closer examination revealed a climb-down by Chris Smith, the Sec-

year are included in the deal. Neither does the deal include an annual bonus of 43 per cent of salary to be paid this month. Neither will next year's annual bonus be included.

"The only one included will be the final installment of a long-term bonus of 120 per cent of salary negotiated in 1994," said the source. "That amounts to 35 per cent of salary and it will be paid in October. [The directors] can choose to pay an amount from that. It will be voluntary and it will be one-off. I don't think anyone has thought about how much to pay yet."

The deal was struck on Thursday during a day of telephone conversations between Hayden Phillips, Mr Smith's permanent secretary, and Tim Holley, Camelot's chief executive, after it had become clear to the Secretary of State for National Heritage that his insistence that Camelot's directors give their bonuses to charity had backfired.

He had summoned Sir George Russell, the Camelot chairman, to his office last Monday to express his anger at the levels of directors' pay. Among the biggest earners, Mr Holley had been given £590,000 for 1996/97 - 50 per cent up on the previous year; David Rigg, communications chief, picked up £330,000 - 90 per cent up on the previous year; and Peter Murphy, finance director, got a 76 per cent pay increase to £361,000.

But Mr Smith soon realised that neither he nor Camelot's shareholders - GTEch, Racal, De La Rue, Cadbury Schweppes and ICL - could force the directors to return bonuses paid legally as the result of proper contracts. "It wasn't the money involved," one director told *The Independent* yesterday. "It was the principle. It could be £10 or £1m. You simply can't go around asking people to pay back their bonuses."

The impression that Mr Smith had bitten off more than he could chew was reinforced when Mr Holley, Mr Rigg and Mr Murphy said they would resign over the matter. Finally, the secret talks were initiated on Thursday after GTEch, Racal and De La Rue said they would pull out if Camelot were made into a "not-for-profit" organisation - the type of body Mr Smith wants Camelot to become. Both sides are to put forward proposals on that step by the end of July.

By the time Mr Hayden and Mr Holley had completed their talks on Thursday, Mr Smith was able to say that Camelot's directors were giving money to give it back sooner or later. And the directors were safe in the knowledge that they could keep the bonuses at the centre of the controversy.

Leading article, page 19



Sir George Russell: Summoned
Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

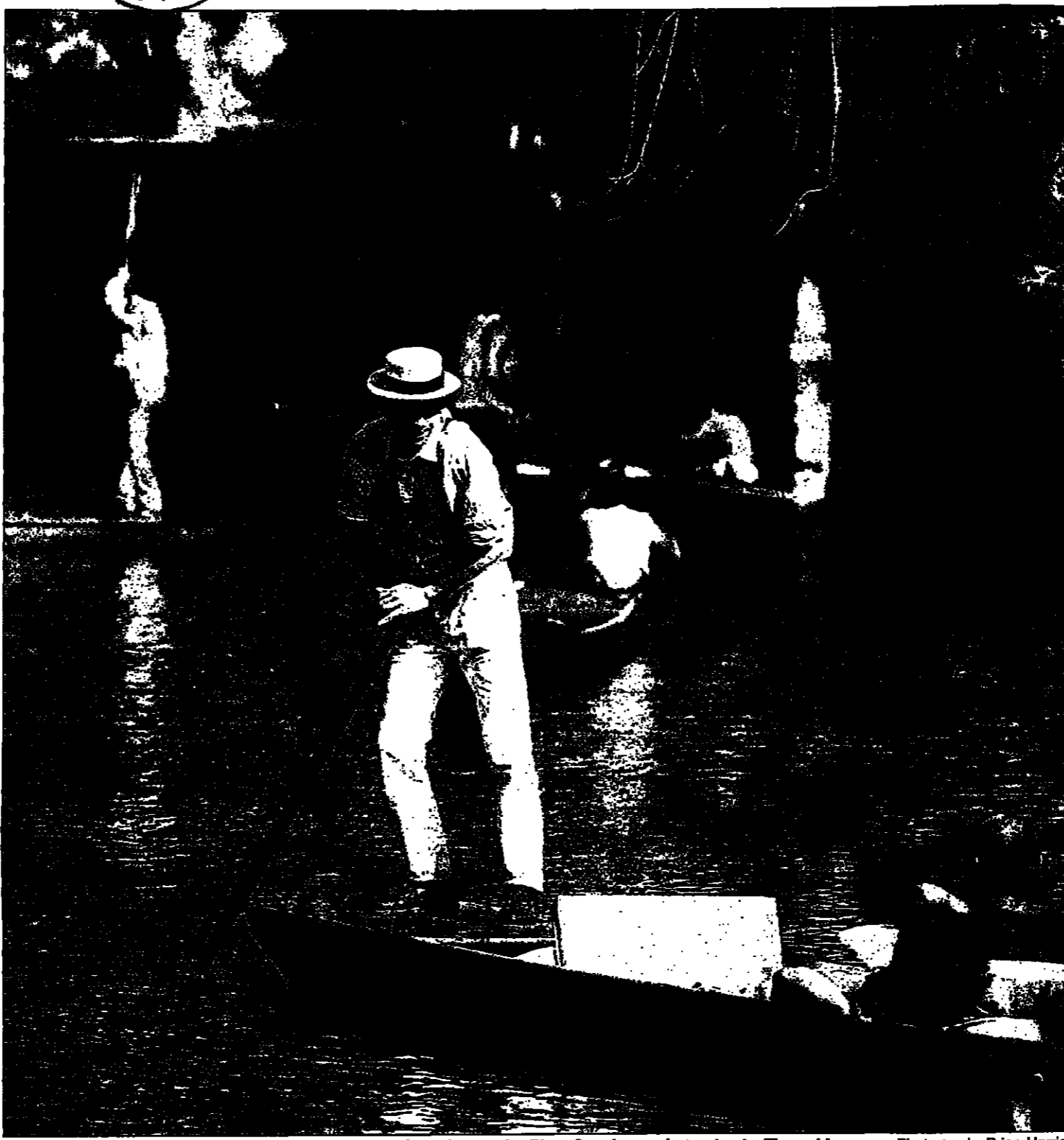
retary of State for National Heritage. Mr Smith had demanded the return of the bonuses of up to 90 per cent of salary paid to directors last year when Camelot's profits fell by 8.6 per cent and donations to good causes dropped from £1.4bn to £1.3bn. In fact, not a penny will be returned by the directors.

Under the deal, Camelot has agreed to hand over interest on unclaimed prizes to the good causes fund, and its directors have undertaken to make secret, personal voluntary payments into a charitable fund from a forthcoming "long-term bonus".

The repayable interest is currently about £6m and will amount to some £24m by 2001, when Camelot's licence expires. However, it had been the subject of negotiation for almost a year and most observers - and, sources say, Camelot directors - believed the company would have to yield to demands to give it back sooner or later. It appears that the directors have simply used it as a bargaining chip in order to keep their bonuses.

A source involved in the negotiations said that none of the bonuses paid last

Too crowded flows the Cam



And is there honey still for tea? The classic appeal of punting on the River Cam is causing water-traffic problems

Photograph: Brian Harris

Clare Garner

An unusual kind of traffic congestion is stirring in the quieter backwaters of Cambridge.

The River Cam is in danger of becoming clogged by its famous punts, according to Professor Michael Chisholm, chairman of the Cam Conservators, the body responsible for registering boats on the river.

Unless the fast-growing number of craft is stemmed, the millions of visitors who descend on the city each year may be put off taking the quintessentially Cambridge trip along the University Backs, he warned yesterday.

"If the numbers become significantly more than they are now then people may be turned off wanting to come on the Cam because it is just so crowded and unpleasant," said the retired Cambridge University geography lecturer. "That would be bad for the operators and bad for the city, which I think now attracts about 3 million visitors a year."

There has been a big increase in river traffic in recent years as punting becomes increasingly popular among tourists. Around 300 punts now compete for trade and many are chauffeur punts which are twice the size of the original models.

Rod Ingersent, 29, manager of Cambridge Punting Company, which owns 150 punts, dismissed the problem. "Obviously we don't agree," he said. "I think punts have reached the ceiling in terms of the number there are going to be and it seems entirely manageable to us."

The annual licence fees, £153 for a six-passenger punt and double that for a chauffeur punt, are prohibitive, added Mr Ingersent. "It's very unlikely the numbers will go up because the fees are very high, the highest in the country."

Professor Chisholm's remarks come amid growing concern about rowdy behaviour on the river and growing competition between rival punt operators. There have been reports of heated arguments between the staff of rival punt firms touting for customers and police warn they will step in if disputes get out of hand.

Rates up by quarter point in Bank's first independent rise

Michael Harrison

How the increase affects mortgages

The cost of home loans went up yesterday after the Bank of England increased interest rates to 6.5 per cent following the inaugural meeting of its monetary policy committee.

At the end of the two-day meeting the seven-strong committee voted for a quarter-point rise in interest rates - the first time since 1945 that the cost of borrowing has been changed without government instruction.

The Halifax and the Abbey National immediately announced that they were increasing mortgage rates by 0.35 per cent. Other lenders are expected to follow suit.

The increase takes the monthly cost of a £50,000 repayment mortgage to £358.85 - a rise of £10.27. The repayment on a £100,000 loan rises by £21.78 to £740.87.

The Bank said it had raised rates because there was a need to keep inflation in check. Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank and chairman of the monetary policy committee, warned earlier this week of the inflationary effects of the £30bn building society windfalls.

This is the second quarter-point increase in base rates

Amount	7.5% Interest	7.75% Interest	Monthly Increase
£50,000	£348.58	£358.85	£10.27
£60,000	£418.29	£429.12	£10.83
£70,000	£488.00	£499.00	£11.00
£80,000	£557.71	£568.85	£11.14
£90,000	£627.42	£639.58	£12.16
£100,000	£697.13	£710.31	£13.18

since Labour came to power. Mr Brown first raised rates a month ago on the same day he announced the Bank's operational independence to set monetary policy. The consensus in the City was that the increase was sensible given the need to choke off the threat of higher inflation. But there was an angry reaction from industry, fearful that the rate rise will strengthen the pound further and harm export prospects.

Business, page 24

Girl of 12 thrown into jail on Isle of Man

Jasper Bennett
Crime Correspondent

A 12-year-old girl and a 15-year-old youth are being kept in a Victorian adult jail on the Isle of Man in a system that was condemned yesterday as "barbaric".

The girl, who has not been convicted on any offence, is being housed in a cell in a special annex of the prison inside the perimeter wall.

She is kept away from adult inmates but can mix with offenders aged up to 16.

She has been at the jail for four days on remand and will go before the court again on Wednesday where she could be sentenced to return to the prison. Until a few days ago a 14-year-old was also at the jail awaiting trial, but has been released after his parents agreed to take care of him.

A civil liberty group pledged yesterday to take the case to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The juveniles at Victoria Road Prison in Douglas, the island's capital, are locked in

modern, adult-style cells from about 8pm to 8am.

Under island laws, children as young as 10 can be detained in the island's only prison, which currently holds three youths aged under 17, two female adults and 88 male inmates.

The 12-year-old girl was sent to the prison last Wednesday. It is understood she is accused of assaulting social workers and damaging property.

The 15-year-old boy at the jail is understood to be serving a six-month sentence for assault and theft.

In the United Kingdom, child offenders aged under 15 are kept in local authority secure accommodation. Penal experts have warned of the dangers of mixing different age groups and sexes and of keeping children in prisons.

Terence McDonald, a Manx advocate, called yesterday for the island's government to establish separate secure accommodation for child criminals. "It is barbaric to lock up children in jail and place them in cells," he said.

"We are rich society and

should have a proper accommodation."

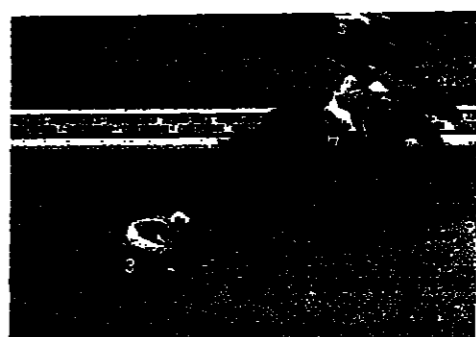
Bernard Moffatt, secretary of the Manx Council for Civil Liberty, said his organisation would appeal to the UN: "Locking children up in adult prisons is like something from the Dark Ages. It has got to end."

The Isle of Man has a reputation for retaining harsh, archaic laws. Homosexuality was illegal until 1992 and hanging was only abolished in 1993. In the same year the government voted to retain birching.

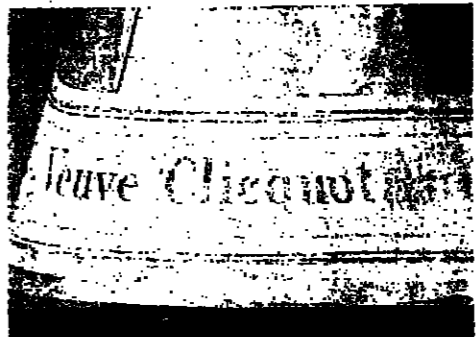
There are five cells in the ju-

veniles unit, which have toilets and basins. They are sometimes used by adults when the unit is empty. Parents are allowed to visit every day and the children receive education and recreation. The prison staff who supervise them are given special training.

Rosemary Crosby, the jail's governor, said: "There is a need to put some children in secure accommodation. It is how you deal with them when they are there that is important. We do not have the resources to provide greater facilities."



WINNER BY A HEAD



WINNER BY A NECK

THE DEBUT, ENGLAND	7 June
GARNSINGTON OFFICE	19 June - 8 July
ROYAL ARMY	17-20 June
TWO CROWNED TEST MATCH V AUSTRALIA, LORD'S	19-23 June
WIMBLEDON TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP	25 June - 8 July
FULDA, VEUVE CLICQUOT GOLD CUP, CROWLEY PARK	25 June - 30 July
HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA	2-6 July
HAMPTON COURT PALACE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW	9-13 July
BRISTOL GRAND PRIX, SILVERSTONE	13 July
COWES WEEK	2-9 August



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CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON



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England hit out
England led Australia by 331 runs, with Nasser Hussain scoring 207 and Graham Thorpe 138, when rain stopped play at 449-6 in the second day of the first Test at Edgbaston. Page 32

news

significant shorts

Inquiry launched into prison strip-search of woman

An inquiry was launched yesterday after a woman prisoner was strip-searched by male prison officers after she threatened to kill herself, the Prison Service said.

The search, at Highpoint Prison, near Haverhill in Suffolk, was in contravention of Home Office policy which states that strip-searches should be carried out by officers of the same sex as the inmate. The four officers believed to have taken part in the search have not been dismissed or suspended while the inquiry, headed by a governor from another prison and expected to take at least a week, is completed. The search took place on the evening of 2 June and revealed a small strip of metal which officers believed could have been used as a weapon.

The investigation comes as it was announced that regular criminal checks may be introduced on staff at a secure mental hospital after it was discovered that a nurse carried on working with dangerous patients for two years after being convicted of importing pornography. William Baird was dismissed from Ashworth special hospital, Merseyside, whose most infamous inmate is the Moors murderer Ian Brady, two weeks ago. An immediate inquiry into the Personality Disorder Unit was ordered in February after allegations of paedophilia came to light along with claims that pornography, drugs and alcohol were widely available. The chief executive, a senior psychiatrist and two nurses were suspended. Neither the courts nor the police had informed hospital authorities about Mr Baird, who was suspended at the time on another matter. **Matthew Brace and Glenda Cooper**

Convent opts into state system

A Catholic girls' school is to become the first private school to opt into the state system under the new government.

Virgo Fidelis Convent School in Croydon, south London, will become a state school in August, and will open its doors to non-fee paying pupils for the first time in September. The school is one of 12 independent schools which made a bid to become state-funded under the Conservative government but whose applications were held up by the general election campaign. One has been turned down and ten more await a decision. Sister Bernadette, headmistress at the convent school, said the school, which was founded 149 years ago by Irish nuns to educate children from the streets and workhouses, would now be better placed than ever to fulfil its mission of serving low-income families. **Lucy Ward**

The importance of being honest



A questionnaire completed and signed by the homosexual playwright Oscar Wilde in his student days, in which he claimed vanity, conceit and self-esteem as the traits he most detested in men and women, fetched £23,000 yesterday, ten times its estimated value, when a mystery telephone bidder bought the handwritten manuscript at Christie's in London.

The questionnaire was completed in 1877, when Wilde was unknown and studying at Oxford University, and is contained in a previously unheard-of two-page entry in *Album for Confessions, or Tales, Habits and Convictions*, compiled by a contemporary, Wilde, who later rose to fame for works such as *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, put his full name Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wilde at the top of the 40-question sheet in the album. Asked what his aim in life was, Wilde replied: "Success, fame or even notoriety."

Dambuster prototypes recovered

Army engineers began a delicate operation yesterday to recover prototypes of Barnes Wallis's famous dambusting bouncing bombs from the Kent coast.

Five bombs have been discovered on the low tide mark at Reculver, near Heme Bay, where trials for the most famous air-raid of the Second World War were held.

Specially-equipped Lancaster bombers of 617 Squadron under the command of Wing Commander Guy Gibson dropped the bombs to breach dams in Germany's industrial Ruhr, creating a flood that destroyed power supplies and disrupted war industries. The dambusters were immortalised in the eponymous 1954 film, starring Richard Todd and Michael Redgrave.

Land-speed record attempt stalled

Britain's attempt on the land speed record was stalled yesterday after the rear suspension of the Thrust SSC car was damaged during a 540 mph trial run. Although the driver, Andy Green, was unhurt, the team leader Richard Noble decided that they should return home from the trials in the Jordanian desert.

But although they did not achieve their test target of a 600mph desert run, the team members are confident that they can go for a record-breaking run of 750mph - breaking the sound barrier - in the US in September. Mr Noble is the current world record holder, having achieved 633mph in 1993 at Black Rock desert in Nevada, in the western US.

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Belgium	£5.00	Italy	£5.00
Canada	£5.00	Malta	£5.00
Czech	£5.00	Spain	£5.00
Denmark	£5.00	Sweden	£5.00
France	£5.00	Switzerland	£5.00
Germany	£5.00	USA	£5.00
Greece	£5.00		
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Back issues of the Independent are available from Historic Newspapers, telephone 01888 642270.

people



Lana de Savary with her daughters Tara, Savannah and Amber. Her husband Peter, below, says he will not leave them or his two daughters by a previous marriage any money

De Savary disinherits his daughters

Peter de Savary, the property developer, has announced that he does not intend to leave his £24m fortune to his five children when he dies. The self-made multi-millionaire says he finds the sight of upper-class children squandering inheritances they do not appreciate "staggering".

"The girls must achieve in their own lives whatever they can achieve," Mr de Savary said of his five daughters. "They will not be given the responsibility and the awesome task of trying to preserve or augment or carry on any of my efforts."

His eldest daughter, Lisa de Savary, 28, yesterday applauded her father's decision. "I think it's a good thing because you do see lots of people with trust funds who don't have the impetus to get off their backsides and do something."

Miss de Savary, who works in public relations, added: "At the end of the day achieving something by yourself and off your own back is far more satisfying than sitting back and living off someone else's money."

Besides Lisa, Mr de Savary has four other daughters: Nicola, 23, Tara, 10, Amber, nine, and Savannah, five. Nicola, a medical student at King's College London, teaches English as a foreign language in her holidays. Lisa said: "She got a TEFL qualification so that's what she's doing in her summer holidays."



Mr de Savary, the son of a French-born Essex farmer, tells a forthcoming ITV series on the British class system: "I have inherited nothing. I have won nothing. I have had to create whatever I have created from nothing and I believe in the words of Andrew Carnegie, which is to die rich is to die disgraced. So I'm not leaving castles and fortunes to my children."

He was kicked out of Charterhouse when he was 16 and by the age of 34 he was a multi-millionaire. Listed as the joint-733rd richest man in Britain, he once owned John O'Groats and Land's End and now runs the Skibo Castle hotel and golf course in Scotland.

Miss de Savary emphasised that her father was a "very generous" man. "Of course," she said. "He's put us all through good schools and universities... He's always there to help if we are in an impossible situation... Whatever he said in the TV programme I don't think it will come across as: 'I don't give my children a penny.' All he's really saying is he doesn't believe in giving children trust funds." **Clare Garner**

Struggling U2 fall victim to pop market forces

U2, the Irish rock band, may be regretting the giant fruit that graces the set of their current PopMart tour of the United States. It is a lemon and it may turn out to be an apt symbol of a tour that appears to be struggling.

The evidence from ticket sales suggests that the band and its lead singer Bono, pictured, may not have the drawing power they once enjoyed. At least two concerts have been cancelled including one tonight in Philadelphia.

A three-night stretch in New York last weekend began well with a capacity crowd of 50,000 on Saturday. The lemon is part of a eye-popping set that includes a gargantuan VideoWall and towering McDonalds-like golden arch. Even on that night, however, a few hapless tourists were offloading tickets at half price. By Tuesday night the top tier of the Giant's stadium was mostly empty.

In other cities, it has looked even grimmer. The band played to only 27,000 on 1 May in a 60,000-seat stadium in Denver. On their last US tour, they attracted 53,000 fans in Denver. Tour insiders also report disappointing merchandising of PopMart paraphernalia.



The promoters denied yesterday that the tour, which will begin a British leg at Wembley on 22 August, is a flop. Arthur Fogel, president of the promoting company The Next Adventure, said: "When people see some shows fall short of sold out, all of a sudden they say the tour's in trouble. Nothing could be further from the truth."

The explanation for tonight's cancellation is that the gig would have clashed with a large Tibet Freedom concert in New York - at which U2 will briefly play. Another cancelled show, in Raleigh, North Carolina, was reportedly caused by damage done to the VideoWall by rain in a Washington DC. **David Usborne, New York**

Banks on the spot over sport academy

Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, is facing a sporting challenge it will be hard for him to resist.

Mr Banks, an ardent Chelsea fan, has been challenged by a fellow Labour MP to a penalty shoot out at Wembley.

Alan Simpson offered Mr Banks the best out of five penalties to decide whether the proposed Centre for Sporting Excellence is based in the Midlands or the South.

However, Mr Banks, who is not noted for his footballing prowess, may have second thoughts as Mr Simpson had trials for the England team when he was a schoolboy.

Mr Simpson, the Labour MP for Nottingham South, fears that the minister will allow the centre to be created "within a comfortable coach ride of Wembley".

Insisting that it had to be based in the regions, Mr Simpson said: "If it is not, it will be perceived as yet another initiative driven by the narrow perceptions of the sporting establishment."

And he added: "The penalty shoot out would be the best of five - the winner decides on what we do." **Colin Brown**

briefing

EDUCATION

Vocational A-levels 'fail to prepare students for work'

Vocational A-levels are failing in one of their main aims - the broad preparation of students for work, a study said yesterday.

The report from London University's Institute of Education found that most students from General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ) courses went into jobs unrelated to the subjects they had studied.

A high proportion of young people work in retailing or in hospitality and catering but very few choose relevant GNVQs.

Over three-quarters of students are concentrated in four subjects, art and design, business, leisure and tourism, and health and social care. The report questions whether that was what the last Government's meant when it said that they should be "a broad preparation for employment."

Professor Alison Wolf, who carried out the project, said the courses "represent a very small proportion of the country's occupational map". Technical jobs are poorly represented.

The qualifications have also failed to achieve equal standing with A-levels - another objective. That is partly because old vocational qualifications persist so that the new courses have not become the main alternative to A-levels. Only a fifth of 16-year-olds takes them compared with the target of a quarter for 1996. **Judith Judd**

ENVIRONMENT

Solar power comes home

Solar power is being used to cut fuel bills for low-income families in an experiment set up by Greenpeace and a housing association.

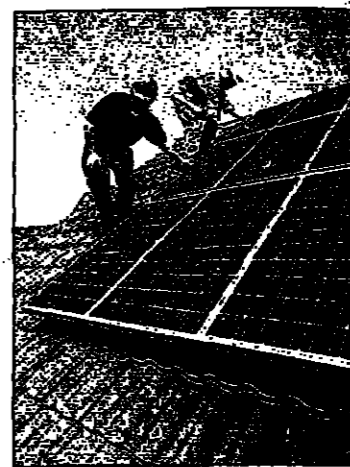
Three terrace houses in Silvertown in London's Docklands were chosen to show that solar panels can generate electricity in ordinary homes, making a saving of £60 per household.

Although it is expensive to install the 10 panels needed for each house, Greenpeace is campaigning for grants to revolutionise the market.

Marcus Rand, a Greenpeace campaigner, said: "We are calling on the Government to start a nation-wide solar programme immediately."

Just by re-directing the £17m currently spent on oil, coal and gas industries Britain could have a minimum of 50,000 solar homes by 2010. The Silvertown project shows it's possible.

George Barlow, chief executive of Peabody, one of London's largest housing associations, said: "We [this project] hope it will set in motion a new approach to the use of clean, renewable energy to reduce energy costs for people who most need affordable housing."



HEALTH

More money for diabetes

Projects aimed at conquering diabetes are failing to get off the ground because of lack of funds, it was claimed yesterday.

The British Diabetic Association said more scientists than ever are applying for grants from its £4.5m research fund. But the charity said that although some schemes could lead to a cure for the condition, increasing numbers of worthwhile projects had to be turned down.

Professor Stephen Bloom, chairman of the charity's research committee, said: "Talk of prevention or a cure for diabetes is not a pipe dream. It could happen in our lifetimes with a continuing investment in diabetes research."

In order to increase the money available the charity will launch an appeal at the start of National Diabetes Week tomorrow.

TRANSPORT

Top tips for greener driving

A leading driving school has offered a range of tips to motorists to help cut car pollution levels while staying behind the wheel.

Responding to the Government's attempts to persuade the public to use their cars less and public transport more, BSM published advice to motorists to do their bit for the environment.

The suggestions include keeping cars well maintained, avoiding carrying excess weight, switching off the engine in non-moving jams and avoiding excessive revving in low gears and keeping speeds consistent. Keith Cameron, the company's head of road safety policy, said: "A good driving technique can reduce fuel consumption by 25 per cent. A shift in attitude by motorists to how they drive and treat their car would not only produce greener drivers, but would also reduce accidents and help people save a lot of time and money."

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Saudis attack British over trial coverage

The Saudi government has attacked media coverage of the trial of the two nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague.

The Saudi Ambassador to Britain, Dr Ghazi Algosabi, said yesterday the approach of some British media to the case had been "irresponsible" and "ill-advised".

He defended his country's legal system, which, he said, would ensure a fair trial for Lucille McLauchlan, 31, and Deborah Parry, 38, accused of murdering colleague Yvonne Gifford last year.

The diplomat's attack followed a press conference on Thursday in which the families of the two women said new evidence cast doubt over alleged confessions, which the women have already retracted.

Dr Algosabi said: "It is entirely inappropriate for anyone to make any public comment upon the trial of the defendants until the proceedings have finally determined. It is extremely unfortunate indeed, to the due administration of justice in Saudi Arabia, for the issues in the case to be the subject of such ill-advised publicity in the media, especially in the case which may involve issues of life and death."

"It is for the court and the court alone, and not the media to decide this case."

Comments by the nurses' lawyers about alleged mistreatment of the pair while in jail are believed to have particularly antagonised the Saudis.

The Foreign Office declined to comment on the Saudi outburst but pointed out that throughout the case the Saudis had co-operated with requests for consular access to the women, and had allowed the vice-consul to attend the trial.

Ms Parry, from Hampshire, and Ms McLauchlan, from Dundee, could face the death penalty if convicted of the murder of Miss Gifford, 55, who was found beaten, stabbed and suffocated at the King Fahd military medical complex in Dhahran where the women worked. Back in Saudi there was fresh hope for the nurses yesterday when it emerged that Frank Gifford, the murdered woman's brother, said he might meet the nurses' families to discuss the case.

Mr Gifford, 59, from Jamestown, South Australia, could insist on the death penalty and has resisted the families' pleas for mercy. But his lawyer, Jim Phipps, told BBC Scotland that his client may have wavered in his opposition to meeting the families. He said: "I think that Frank, at the right time and in the right circumstances might be inclined to meet them."

هنا من الاصل

... Bank



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body parts

There were 10,000 people in the world who were born with a rare condition called Marfan's syndrome. It is a genetic fault that affects the connective tissue in the body. It can cause the heart to enlarge and the aorta to weaken. It can also cause the eyes to become dislocated. It can even cause the spine to curve. It is a condition that can be fatal. But it can also be treated. And it can be treated by a team of specialists. And it can be treated by a team of specialists. And it can be treated by a team of specialists.

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WINTER ROCK

Rock Festival

THE HOME IS AT RISK



People power: An Irish policeman carries a ballot box off Inishfree, Donegal, after the island's electorate of eight had voted in yesterday's Irish general election. Early exit polls showed the centre-right alliance poised to topple prime minister John Bruton
Photograph: Crispin Rodwell/Reuters

Emu back to haunt Lilley's campaign

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

The backstabbing between the right-wing contenders for the Conservative Party leadership intensified last night with accusations that Peter Lilley "got in a muddle" at a private meeting of the Thatcherite 92 group of Tory MPs.

The former secretary of state for social security was said to have failed to give a convincing reply when he was challenged over whether he would have stayed in John Major's Cabinet if it had backed Britain's entry into a single currency.

Michael Howard, the former home secretary, gained

points at the meeting of right-wing Tory MPs for saying he would have resigned, according to his camp. "Peter Lilley refused to say clearly where he stood on the single currency. It was very silly because they asked a simple question - would you have stayed in the Cabinet if it had been in favour of entry to a single currency - Michael Howard surprised them all by saying 'no'," said a Howard supporter.

The in-fighting among the right-wing candidates deepened as Kenneth Clarke pulled off the second coup of the week by winning the support of Sir George Young, the former transport secretary. It came as a blow to the Howard camp, who had been hoping to land Sir George, in spite of his reputation as a patriotic Tory baronet.

The key question is who is most likely to lead us to victory in five years. We need someone voters can relate to and identify with, who can communicate clearly with them and can land punches on Labour ... Ken has the extra qualities that make him an outstanding candidate," said Sir George.

Stephen Dorrell, who last week dropped out in favour of Mr Clarke, will be appearing on the media this weekend for the former Chancellor, who has avoided a high profile for the first round. The struggle for an advantage

on the right of the party underlines the closeness of the contest to be high in the first ballot next Tuesday. Mr Clarke is expected to come first, but the fight is on for second and third. The candidates who come fourth and fifth will be under pressure to drop out.

The Howard camp is claiming that the former home secretary has survived the attack on him by his former minister, Ann Widdecombe, and is gaining support, challenging William Hague for second place after Mr Clarke, with Mr Lilley and Mr Redwood trailing.

John Redwood's demand that the Shadow Cabinet should implacably oppose a single currency is seen as the price for his support in the final rounds, and an attempt to force Mr Howard, if he wins, to adopt a tougher policy. Mr Redwood's policy would make it impossible for Mr Clarke to serve in his Shadow Cabinet. But Mr Howard is preparing a compromise to enable Mr Clarke to stay on board.

"Michael is opposed to a single currency in principle but in the long run, that is a policy around which the Conservative Party can unite," said one Howard supporter. "It leaves room for Ken who says he is opposed to a single currency being fudged. Michael's view is that it will always be fudged."

Part-time jobs deal heralds unions' revival

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

The first sign that union leaders will have a critical influence on British legislation charged yesterday when representatives of workers and employers agreed 6 million part-timers should have the same rights as full-time colleagues.

While the deal was struck on the Continent between the European TUC and the equivalent body for employers, it will eventually become law in Britain.

Because of the Government's impending signature to the Social Chapter of the Maastricht treaty, the agreement will reach the British statute book within two years and will be especially welcome to female workers who make up the vast majority of part-timers.

Staff who do not work full time have the same rights to claim unfair dismissal and redundancy following a House of Lords ruling two years ago but they do not have the same contractual rights, such as paid holidays, sick leave and staff discounts. Yesterday's accord will right those perceived wrongs.

The part-time workers' deal will now go before the European Social Affairs Council later this year, which is expected to ratify the agreement so that it becomes law.

Under the Social Chapter, British unions will be able to exercise influence on such legislation along with their

Continental counterparts. The potential for increasing union power in the UK was the main reason why the previous Government opposed the social section of the Maastricht treaty and secured an opt-out.

Adair Turner, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, accepted the inevitability of the new relationships between both sides of commerce but said the proposed law on part-time workers would have a "limited impact".

He said: "Our approach to the Social Chapter will be to look at each proposal which emerges on its merits." He said where laws were proposed with which the CBI disagreed, they would be opposed. "The CBI is strongly committed to a flexible labour market and to equal opportunities. The agreement should not undermine existing flexibility, but reflect the high regard employers now place on their part-time employees." Mr Turner said most part-timers already received equal employment rights.

Kamlesh Bahl, chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said she was "delighted" with yesterday's agreement. John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, described the deal as "ground-breaking". The agreement was formally signed last night in The Hague in the presence of Wim Kok, Dutch Prime Minister, and Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission.

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Aitken: my sharp editing of letter

Kim Sengupta

Former Cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken admitted in the High Court yesterday that he was "guilty" of "sharp-editing" a letter to the Cabinet Secretary about a stay at the Paris Ritz Hotel owned by Mohamed Al Fayed.

Mr Aitken said he had not intended to deceive Sir Robin Butler, his intention was to throw "dust in the eyes" of the *Guardian* newspaper, which was pursuing stories linking him to alleged corruption.

The former defence procurement minister and chief secretary to the Treasury is suing the *Guardian* and Granada Television, makers of *World in Action*, over allegations that he pimped for Arabs and took part in illegal arms dealing.

George Carman QC, counsel for defence, asked Mr Aitken whether he had failed the test of total candour and total honesty expected of a Cabinet minister in his dealings with the Cabinet Secretary, when it came to the letter about who settled the hotel bill.

Mr Carman said: "There you were, a Cabinet minister, misleadingly misquoting the letter from the Ritz which would mislead Sir Robin Butler." Mr Aitken responded: "I had no intention of deceiving Sir Robin. My sharp editing of the letter, to which I plead guilty, was not intended to deceive him but to put the *Guardian* off the scent."

Mr Carman suggested that this "was a misrepresentation" of a letter sent by the general manager of the Ritz Hotel in Paris. He invited Mr Aitken to differentiate between "sharp editing" and "dishonest editing".

Mr Aitken replied: "That's your language. I would put it differently. Dishonesty is a blatant lie. Sharp editing, intended to confuse a hostile adversary, might not be praise-worthy, but it is not as reprehensible as you are trying to make it sound."

In a blistering exchange at the beginning of the cross-examination on the third day of the trial, Mr Carman asked Mr Aitken if he accepted that he was "totally unfit for public of-

fice" if the judge had to make the "melancholy decision" that he had "lied to the Cabinet Secretary, lied to the Prime Minister, lied to the House of Commons and lied to this court, over your stay at the Ritz".

Mr Aitken responded: "You are dealing here with hypothesis on hypothesis, but if his lordship were to make those dramatic judgements then obviously it would be a shattering blow to me, yes."

Mr Carman asked: "It would butcher your reputation?" Mr Aitken responded: "My reputation has already been butchered." Mr Carman continued: "It would butcher it yet again?" Mr Aitken agreed: "Yes it will."

Mr Aitken told Mr Justice Popplewell that he had met an old friend and business colleague, Said Ayas, for a social meeting at the Ritz during a Paris visit. He refuted allegations that he had met a number of other Arab businessmen to discuss arms sales.

Mr Aitken said when he had arrived at the Ritz he had produced his credit card but had been told "it won't be necessary". He said: "Unfortunately, at the time I did not think this was of any great significance. I was not on guard because I was suffering from a degree of 'Yes Minister' - I was addressed as Monsieur Ministere because grand hotels sometimes greet guests they think are grand in this very respectful way."

He told the court the bill was later settled by his wife, with money given by him. The *Guardian* had been asking him about the payment of the bill and he had responded to the newspaper's "conspiracy theory".

Mr Aitken said he had bumped into Peter Preston, the then editor of the *Guardian*, at a dinner in November 1993. The former minister continued that he said to Mr Preston: "Well, Peter, I hope you have now established that all these conspiracy stories you were floating across me a few weeks ago have all turned out to be rubbish."

"He replied in a rather chilling sort of way 'Oh no, I think we will get you in the end'. I didn't know what he meant by that." The case continues.

The pattern for a modern silk

Already a star of the telly bar, Charles Gray QC, the 54-year-old counsel for Mr Aitken, is now tipped for even greater fame. He has long been considered one of the so-called "fashionable" four liberal QCs - along with George Carman QC, David Eady QC and Gareth Williams QC. Now that David Eady has been made a High Court judge, Gareth Williams, a close peer, he is viewed as about to inherit their honours as well. Tall, distinguished and polished, he is the epitome of the modern silk, businesslike and townshy with few courtroom histrionics. A product of Winchester and Oxford, he is likely to earn a minimum of half a million a year and probably much more. He has notched up a string of court victories for the likes of Jason Donovan, Lord Linley, and the actors Oliver Reed and William Roache and many more out of court, including him, for example, something approaching *Daily Telegraph* proprietor, Conrad Black's personal libel lawyer. His most stunning victory, the £1.5m he won for the Tory peer Lord Alington after he was falsely accused of being a war criminal, was however the most psychic, since the money was never paid.



Charmer loved by the juries

George Carman QC, 67, counsel for the *Guardian* and Granada Television, has built a formidable reputation as the man juries love as he collected a string of famous victories, and not just in the libel field. The Blackpool-born Carman cut his legal teeth on the northern circuit and in the past was as well known for criminal work. He defended the former Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe, who was cleared of conspiracy to murder and conducted a successful defence against fraud charges brought by Her Majesty's Tax Inspectors. "Everybody wanted him for everything," according to one close associate. At Balliol, he collected first class honours in jurisprudence but was the more plain speaking, blunt even, approach in court. He has clashed with many previous opponents, including Charles Gray, on Allan Lamb's complaint against Ian Botham's and Alistair Lamb's complaint against Ian Botham's. That contest, like most others, involved a jury. In the juryless Aitken trial, the great jurymen most content himself with a mere High Court judge. Thrice married, currently divorced and a proud grandparent, his success is rooted with charm.



The unreal thing: Clifford Possum Tjapaltjari sits in front of Coca Cola Dreaming while using music sticks (dru) to sing about his paintings Photograph: Philip Meech

Aboriginal artist puts on dream show

An Aboriginal artist whose dreams form the basis of his paintings has brought his one-man show to London.

Former cattle stockman turned painter Clifford Possum Tjapaltjari, 65, is a master at combining in a single painting a number of dreaming trails and the stories - which go back to the creation of Australia - are depicted in his work.

The artist, who was one of the founders of the Aboriginal art movement which came to the fore in the 1970s, takes viewers of his work through a landscape, mapping out the stories in his dreams, of which he is the custodian, on to canvas.

So popular are his paintings that one of them is featured in the Queen's personal collection. Mr Possum's latest show - his third in Britain - runs at the Rebecca Hosack Gallery in Windmill Street, central London, until 5 July.

Bargain basement.
(Semi, terraced, bungalow, or detached.)

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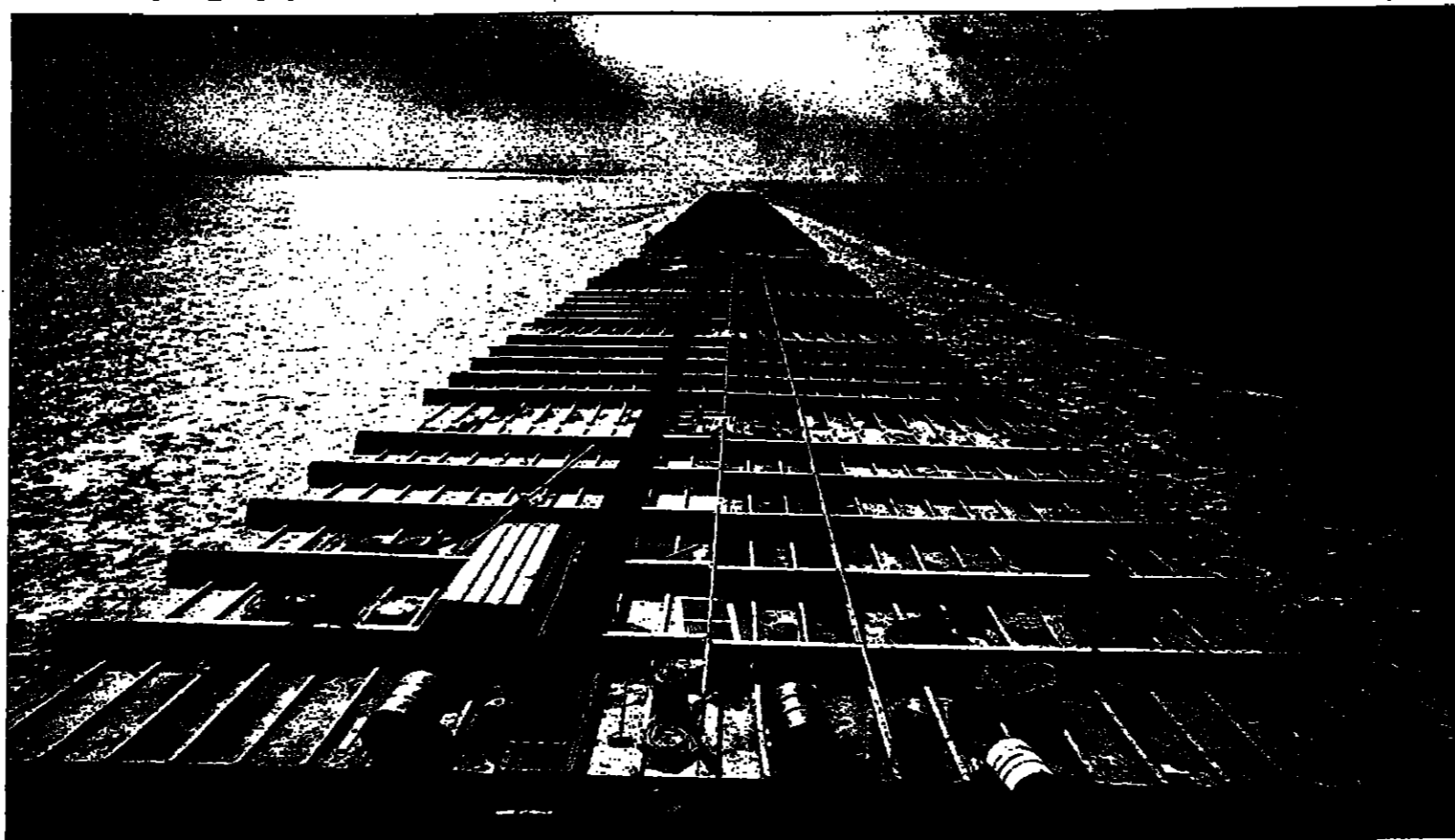
But remember, all good things come to an end. So hurry, hurry, hurry.

MORTGAGES ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO NEW CUSTOMERS OR TO EXISTING BORROWERS MOVING HOME. RATES AND APR'S SHOWN ARE FOR RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES. APR'S QUOTED ARE FOR MORTGAGES ON AN INTEREST ONLY BASIS, ALTHOUGH OUR MORTGAGES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON A REPAYMENT BASIS FOR INTEREST ONLY MORTGAGES AN APPROPRIATE PERSONAL EQUITY PLAN (PEP), PENSION PLAN OR ENDOWMENT POLICY FOR THE AMOUNT AND TERM OF THE LOAN MUST ALSO BE ARRANGED. CONTRIBUTIONS/PREMIUMS WILL BE PAYABLE TO THE COMPANY INVOLVED. THE EXAMPLE SHOWN IS BASED ON AN INTEREST ONLY MORTGAGE AND DOES NOT INCLUDE THE SAVINGS POLICY CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH NEED TO BE MADE. THE APR FOR YOUR PARTICULAR LOAN MAY BE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT SHOWN IN THIS ADVERTISEMENT IF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES DIFFER FROM THE ASSUMPTIONS OF WHICH THE EXAMPLE IS BASED. FOR FIXED RATE MORTGAGES THE APR CAN VARY SLIGHTLY ACCORDING TO INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES. 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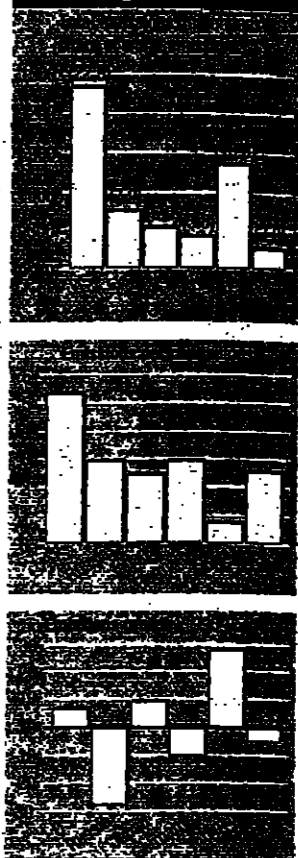
Deadline for action approaches, but lobbying by powerful companies is stalling international agreement, reports **Nicholas Schoon**

American oil giants block efforts to end global warming



Fuel train: Oil barges off the Californian coast. The United States produces the most emissions from fossil fuels

Carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels



Photograph: FSP

Time is running out for the most important environmental negotiations in history – the UN talks about what rich countries should do about about man-made climate change caused by our use of fossil fuels.

The most important player is the United States, which produces the most emissions per capita and in total. It has yet to

declare its hand. But American industry, and particularly its giant oil and energy multinationals, are lobbying skillfully against the significant cuts needed to make a start on tackling the threat.

The Washington-based Global Climate Coalition only has a staff of four but represents tens of thousands of small and medi-

um-sized US businesses, as well as oil and utility giants. "We're not large, we're just, I guess, pretty effective," a spokesman told *The Independent*.

Two years ago the developed nations, including Russia and the former Warsaw pact nations, promised to come up with firm, legally binding commitments to cut their emissions of green-

house gases from 2000 onwards. They also promised to reach an agreement on precisely what this commitment should be at a conference of climate treaty nations in Kyoto, Japan in December.

The different factions among the rich states are still poles apart, with three weeks of negotiations booked before Kyoto.

At one extreme is Australia, which refuses to contemplate any cuts in its output of carbon dioxide, the most important of the man-made global warming pollutants. Australia is highly dependent on using and exporting coal, the most polluting of the fossil fuels. It has major metal smelting industries which belch out the gas.

At the other extreme is the European Union, which claims world leadership on the issue by making a firm commitment to cut its emissions by 10 per cent between 2000 and 2010. Europe says it is willing to deliver a 15 per cent cut, provided the other industrialised countries agree, though as yet it has no strategy to achieve this.

The other negotiators find Europe's virtuous position disturbing. Some of the less wealthy, still industrialising, EU states are allowed large increases in emissions over this period – 40 per cent in the case of Portugal. The idea is that this will be offset by big cuts among wealthier member states, so the Union as a whole will hit the 10 per cent target.

Under the last government, Britain agreed to sign up to a 10 per cent cut in emissions. The new government has come into office with a manifesto commitment to make a 20 per cent cut, but admits it has yet to devise policies needed to do so.

The environment minister, Michael Meacher, indicated this week that unless the rest of Europe was willing to work towards tougher targets, this 20 per cent commitment would not be forthcoming, because meeting it would involve "real pain for business and consumers".

Japan, another key player, has not yet pledged any cuts, nor has the US. The White House says it is difficult to make commitments, with powerful energy industry lobbyists and a conservative Congress that sees emission limits as a foreign threat to the gas-guzzling American economy.

The US is, however, insisting rich countries should be allowed to make some of their contribution by helping developing nations control their fast-rising emissions.

This would mean demonstrating that instead of making a cut at home it had enabled China, for example, to slow the rate at which its emissions are rising by an equivalent amount. The EU has real doubts about the value of this approach.

Demanding much deeper cuts than any industrialised nation will contemplate is an alliance of small island states which are frightened that much of their habitable land will disappear as sea levels rise.

Meanwhile, Opec nations, such as Saudi Arabia, are suggesting that if the world cuts its oil use, they must be compensated for a loss in exports.

The main idea behind the Kyoto deal is that the rich nations would lead the way in attacking the threat of devastating shifts

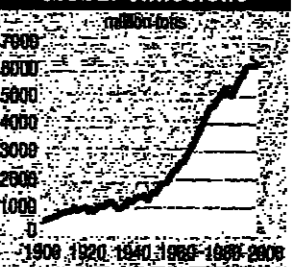
in climate, because they have produced most of the pollution to date and still do. Only then can the developing countries, whose share of emissions is rising, be expected to follow.

The multinational oil companies, mostly US-based, no longer speak with one voice. The European ones, BP and, to a lesser extent, Shell, say it is time for countries to take the threat seriously, though they do not suggest selling less oil.

Dr Bob Watson, the World Bank's chief scientist and a former pupil at an Essex grammar school, was until recently science adviser to the White House. He guesses that President Bill Clinton will offer a 5 per cent cut between 2000 and 2010.

The leaders of the rich countries, including Britain, will discuss the issue at the G7 summit in Denver in a fortnight. It will dominate the five-year follow-up to the Rio earth summit in

Global emissions



New York held afterwards.

Chris Rose, deputy chief executive of Greenpeace UK, said: "It's 50-50 whether Kyoto ends disastrously or fairly well." He said it was extremely important to set a target for cuts in 2005, because that would be within today's politicians' terms of office.

If the chance is missed to make a start on cutting emissions in Japan this year, then the cumbersome pace of climate diplomacy dictates that it will be years before fresh attempts could be made.

John Schlaes, executive director and founder of the Global Climate Coalition, said: "These things can't be determined on the basis of emotion... countries are going to have to decide, ultimately, what is in their own best interests."

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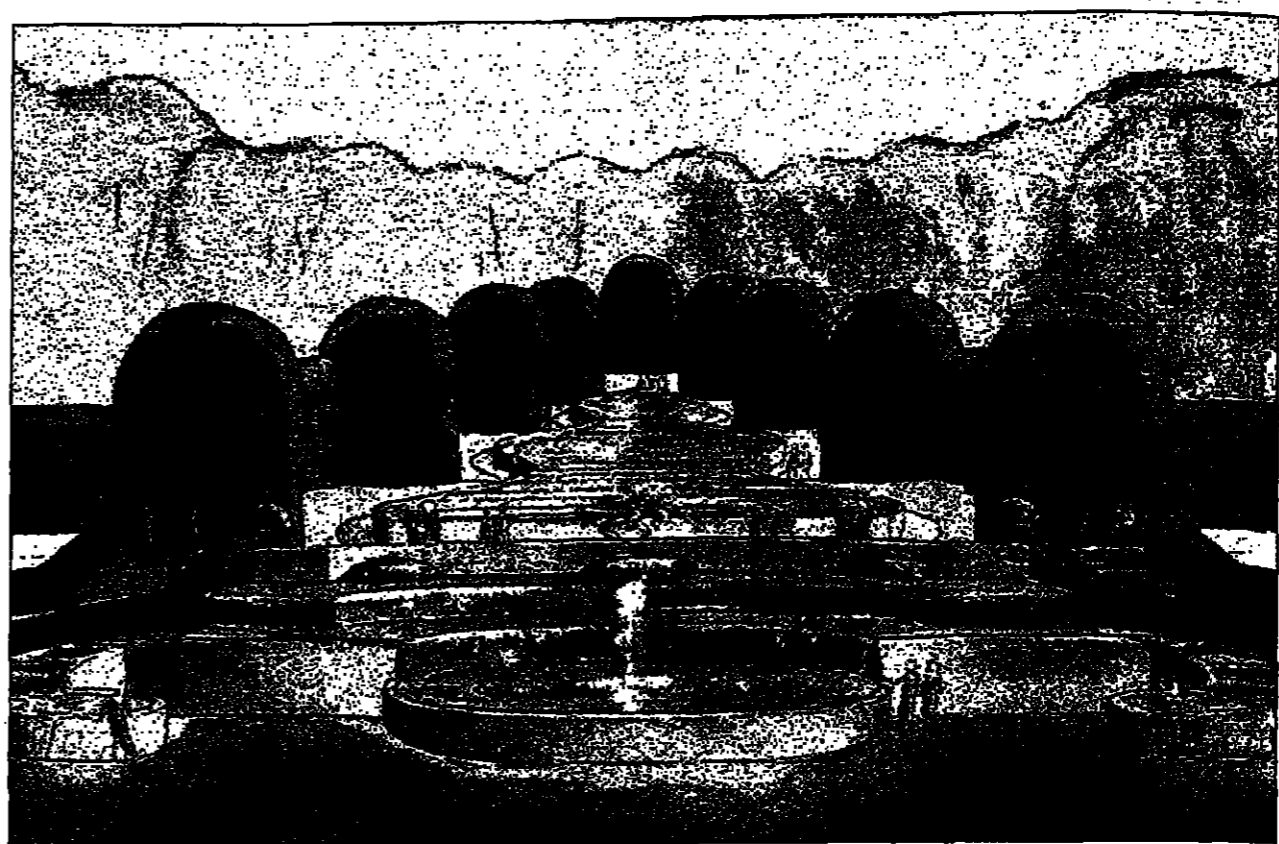
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Timely reminiscences: The Duchess of Northumberland and Alex Smith, 81, who worked as a gardener at Alnwick Castle in the 1930s. Right: An artist's impression of the transformed garden

Photograph: North News and Pictures

Duke's garden to be landscape for 21st century

Stephen Goodwin
Heritage Correspondent

A classical 19th-century walled garden which fell into dereliction after the First World War is to be transformed into an avant-garde water garden by an international team of designers including the "rebel" Japanese architect Tadao Ando.

The 12-acre garden at Alnwick Castle in Northumberland will be-

come a place where mists and sprays create rainbows over the lawns in summer and appear luminous to visitors by moonlight.

The Duchess of Northumberland, Jane Percy, yesterday cut the first turf to launch her £8m to £10m project, though that time-honoured act may be all that is conventional about it.

Tadao Ando, who has just won the Royal Gold Medal for architecture though he trained as carpenter, is to

design the pavilion and the water features.

He will work alongside garden designers Jacques and Peter Wirtz from Belgium and plants specialists from France and Germany.

Together they will transform the sloping garden which enjoyed an international reputation 200 years ago. Created by the first duke in the 18th century and redesigned to complement the Italian interior of the

castle in the 19th century, the garden was popular for family outings but fell into decline after the First World War.

The Prince of Wales is the project's patron and in a statement issued by the Northumberland estate he praised the plans, which will strongly feature moving water, including cascades, waterfalls, fountains, pools and canals.

"In seeking to recapture the lost

world of this great garden, and sharing it with others, the present Duchess is taking up once more the innovative ideas so brilliantly demonstrated in previous generations," said the Prince.

The garden will be open to the public all year while the pavilion, which will be capable of holding 300 people, will be the main source of revenue, supporting a team of up to 15 gardeners.

The duchess's vision is to create "one of the most exciting gardens in Europe this century".

While reflecting the former garden's classical layout it will, she said, be "a contemporary garden for the 21st century, using the talent, expertise and technology of our time".

"I am trying to make the water dance, foam and 'mist' in a way which will catch the light, creating a rain-

bow effect. We will put in lighting from the beginning so the water works can be illuminated."

Once sponsorship is secured - £2m is needed to begin the work - the aim will be to make the garden "a national resource that can be drawn on by everyone from local schoolchildren ... to gardening enthusiasts world-wide". If all goes well the garden will be flowing by the turn of the millennium.

Staff shun schools on failure list

Lucy Ward
Education Correspondent

Schools branded failures by the Government yesterday claimed the bad publicity had blighted their efforts to recruit new staff, leaving them struggling to reverse a spiral of decline.

Candidates applying for vacancies at some schools on a list of 18 deemed by ministers to be improving too slowly immediately withdrew their applications or failed to turn up to interviews, a survey by *The Independent* revealed.

In one central London primary, headteachers from neighbouring successful schools tried to poach nursery teachers, enticing them to leave with reminders that they faced losing their jobs if the school closed.

The named schools also acknowledged that, in order to attract new staff, they will be forced to offer higher salaries and other inducements to persuade candidates to apply.

Although David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, has emphasised that schools on the failing list will be offered extra help to aid their recovery, the threat of closure still hangs over them if they do not make significant improvement by the end of September.

Naming the 18 schools was an early, controversial move by the new Labour government, and drew opposition from teaching unions.

The school standards minister Stephen Byers, unveiling the list on 20 May, said all those identified would be given support by so-called Special Measures Action Recovery Teams, or SMART teams. The teams, made up of experienced heads

and other experts, would act as "help squads" rather than hit squads, he said.

However, the 18 schools, which are still waiting to hear details of how the help squads will work, say the teams will not ease their staffing problems.

At South Beaulieu Primary School in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, nine candidates were shortlisted for two jobs on the day the failing list was published. Four have now pulled out and the headteacher, Alan Johnston, expects more to follow. He said: "One of those withdrawing was very straight and said she didn't want to be rude but it was a bit too much of a gamble going to a school which the government might close in six months. The frustration is, I can well understand that point of view, but how am I now meant to get the good staff this school needs if it is to improve?"

Uppbury Manor Grant Maintained School in Gillingham, Kent, was due to interview for two posts, a departmental deputy and a modern languages teacher, later in the week of the failing schools announcement. Not one candidate turned up.

Only one applicant out of five due for interview for a history post arrived at Kelsey Park school, Bromley, the day after the school was named.

Tim Joiner, a local councillor drafted on to the governing body of St Mary of the Angels primary school in Westminster last December, said that after appearing on the list the school now expected to have to pay more to attract new staff.

Mr Byers last night said that most of the schools named had regarded the exercise as very positive.

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Jupiter reveals its kaleidoscope of seasons



View of the planet: The atmosphere of Jupiter, shown in 'false colour' (above) and as it would appear to the human eye (below). Scientists are surprised to discover it contains both wet and dry regions

Photographs: AP



Plenty of heat, lots of water but almost no likelihood of life

Charles Arthur
Science Editor

It may look like a Turner painting but this is an image of the atmosphere of Jupiter, and it has deserts and tropics like the Earth, scientists say.

However, there is almost no chance life could exist on the gas giant, according to experts at the US space agency Nasa. Although data beamed back by a "suicide probe" in December 1995 showed there is water - essential to life - in the atmosphere, there is no solid surface on the planet where organic compounds could gather.

The pictures were beamed back by a probe which was sent into the huge planet's atmosphere in December 1995 from the *Galileo* spacecraft. Though the titanic pressures of the planet crushed the probe within minutes, it managed to send back data which has now been analysed by the Nasa team.

Scientists were surprised to find "wet" and "dry" regions in the atmosphere. They had expected lots of water; instead, they found dry, wet, "super-dry" and "super-wet" regions.

"Jupiter is wet," said Andrew Ingersoll, a planetary science professor at the California Institute of Technology. But he

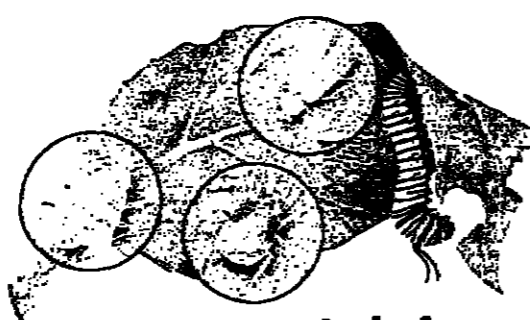
added that the lack of a solid surface made it "highly unlikely" life could exist there.

One planetary scientist said the mixture of elements found in Jupiter's atmosphere suggests it was seeded by comets. "We think the same bombardment ... also brought the same important elements to Earth."

The probe entered a clearing in the clouds of the planet. Through that dry spot, deeper and warmer layers are visible. The picture shows a "false colour" image of those clouds, using infrared wavelengths to indicate variations in cloud height and thickness. The dark blue spot in the middle is a hole in the deep cloud, while the light blue region to the left is covered by a very high haze. The multicoloured region on the right consists of overlapping cloud layers of different heights.

In all, the area of the picture covers about 143 million square miles, the merest speck on a planet whose volume is 1,300 times greater than the Earth's.

The *Galileo* spacecraft is now more than half-way through a two-year orbital tour of Jupiter and its major moons: Io, Europa, Callisto and Ganymede. There are high hopes that life could exist below the icy surface of Europa.



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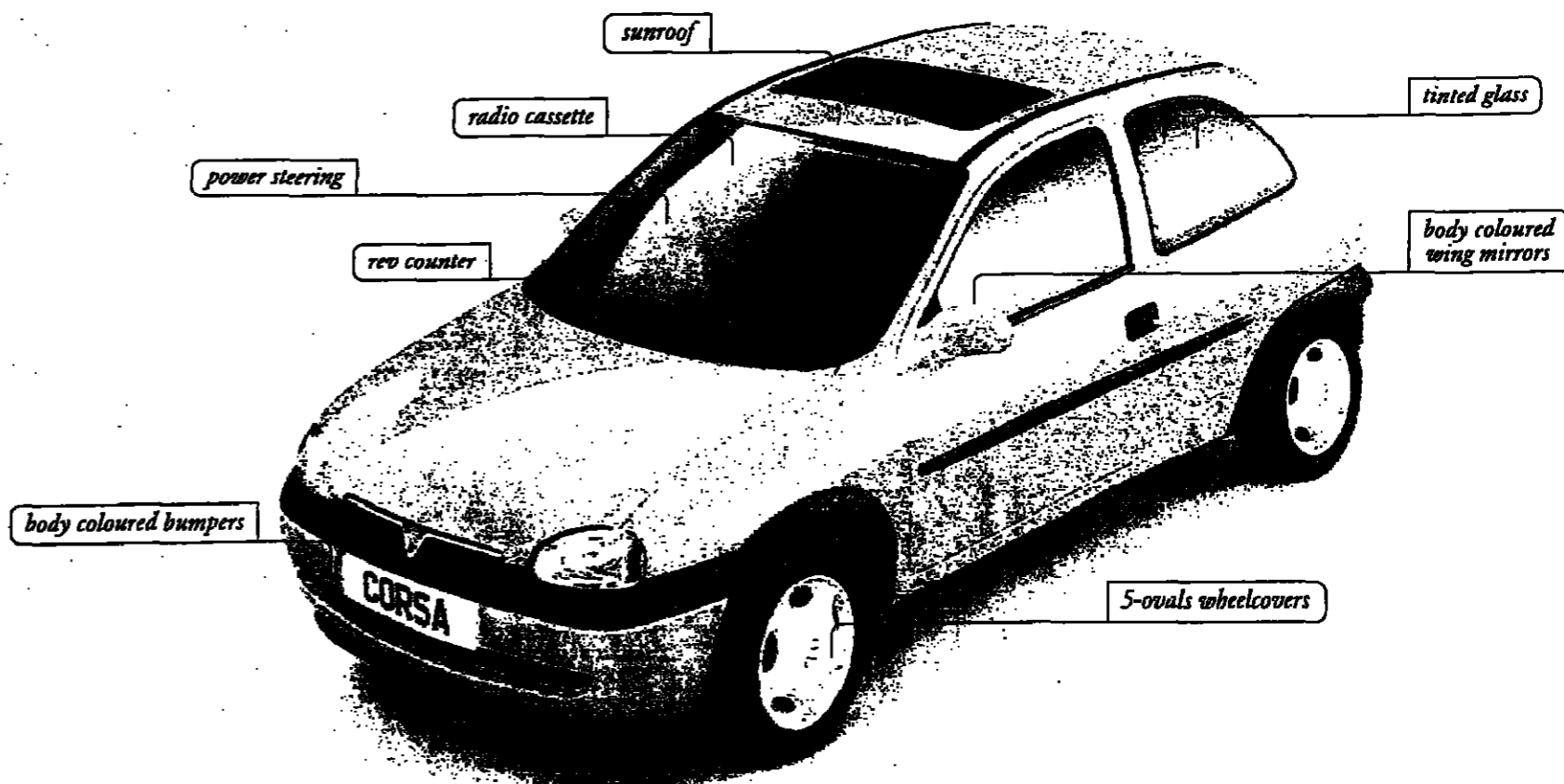
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Distinguished academic: Lisa Jardine, professor of English at the University of London Photograph: Kippa Matthews

Bias that stops women academics reaching the top

Judith Judd
Education Editor

Women are still struggling to reach the top academic jobs, particularly in the oldest universities, says a survey published yesterday. Only 8 per cent of professors are female, though about half the places on university degree courses are filled by women.

Women face the toughest fight for equality in traditional universities such as Oxford and Cambridge. Oxford has 15 women professors out of a total of 232 and only 5.3 per cent of Cambridge professors are women. The figures for 1995-96 are revealed in a survey compiled for the *Times Higher Education Supplement*.

Two new universities, South Bank in London and Oxford Brookes, come top of the league table. One-third of their professors are women. However, the new University of Plymouth is bottom: only 1 of its 44 professors is a woman.

Professor Susan Greenfield, 46, professor of pharmacology at Oxford University, known for her research into Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, was

given an honorary professorship last year after more than 20 years at the university. That means she has the title but no extra money: her basic university salary is £30,000.

She said: "One of the problems is prejudice of a sinister type. I have never been aware that I have been denied a job because of my gender, but I have made remarks on university committees and been ignored as though I were invisible. Women are not seen as being as competent as men. We are going to have to think about how women deal minute-by-minute, day-by-day with snide remarks and put-downs."

"I was talking to three male colleagues the other day and frowning because I was trying to understand what was being said. One of them said 'there is no point frowning at me like that, Susan'. Would he have said that to a man? In one sense, it seems trivial, but if you have that every day, it erodes confidence."

There was a particular problem for women scientists, she suggested, because, unlike colleagues in arts subjects, they could not work at home when they had small children and, if they took time off, they rapidly lost touch with new advances in their field. "There is no way you can compete for a grant if you have been away from the job for two years. It is no coincidence that I don't have children," she said, adding that prejudice was not confined to men. Women often had a low opinion of other women.

An Oxford University spokeswoman said it now had 30 women professors after the appointment of 15 honorary women professors last year. Among its top female academics are Kay Davies, professor of genetics; Dr Jessica Rawson, warden of Merton College and an expert on ancient China; and Carole Jordan, professor of physics.

At London University, female professors include Lisa Jardine, professor of English, and Heather Liddell, professor of computer science, both at Queen Mary and Westfield College. The survey shows that female professors are most likely to be found in medicine, education and librarianship and least likely in engineering, technology and agriculture.



Oxford achievers: Professor Susan Greenfield (top), Dr Jessica Rawson (centre), and Professor Carole Jordan

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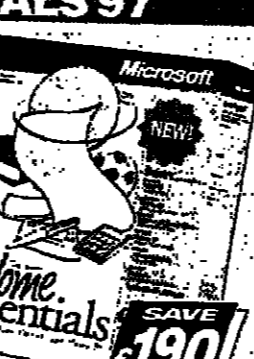
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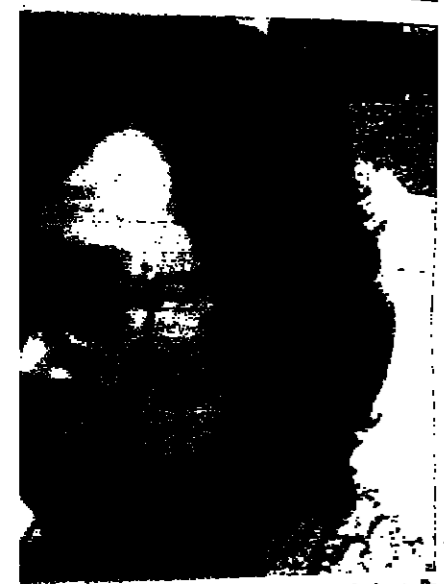
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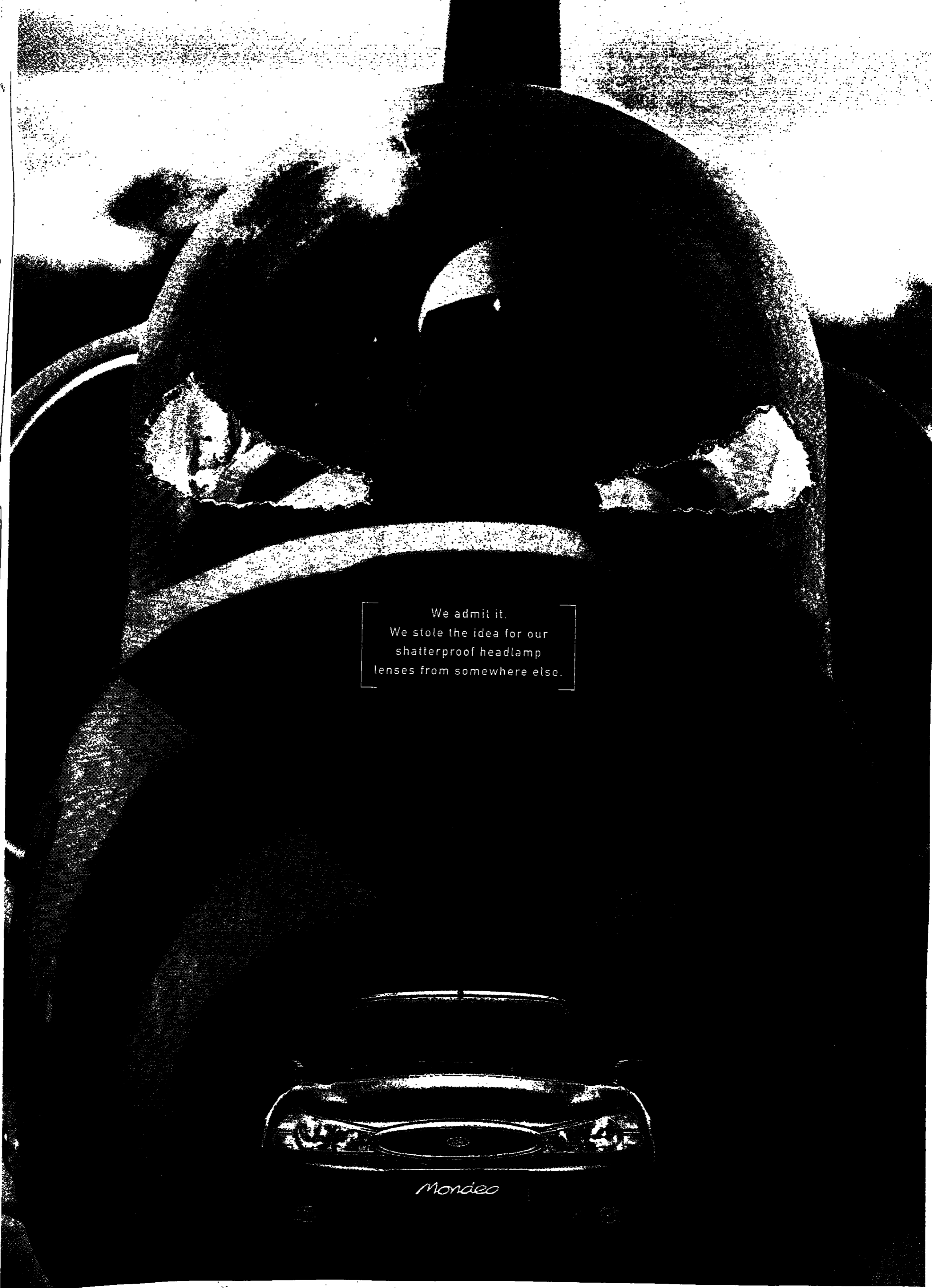
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Andalucia's olive army spoils for a fight

An EU plan to tackle fraud could kill a way of life in Spain

Elizabeth Nash
Bujalance, Andalusia

The sun is high and hot, the earth, after recent downpours, soft underfoot and aromatic. The rolling countryside around the Andalusian village of Bujalance, east of Cordoba, glows, and grey-green olive groves stretch for hundreds of miles beyond the horizon. This is the biggest olive-oil producing region in the world, and there is revolt in the air.

Francisco Haro Priego, head of one of Bujalance's 50 olive-pressing co-operatives, tramps between the neatly trimmed trees. "We constantly trim the trees and keep the earth clear



Tarnished landscape: Workers and farmers from Andalusia, the biggest olive-oil producing region in the world, are taking their fight against a proposed change in subsidy to the Amsterdam summit on 16 June

Photograph: Robert Harding

of our milk, meat and cereals, which we now have to import. They can't ask us to cut back on the only thing we still have enough of."

Mr Fischler, visiting the region in April, ruined his grove cred by plucking an olive from a tree and eating it like a cherry, prompting incredulous contempt among those steeped in the lore of transforming this bitter and indigestible fruit into a palatable delicacy.

Back at the *almazara* or pressing mill, where 500 local growers bring their crop between December and February, Francisco proudly shows me four gleaming stainless steel centrifuges and a vast new storage vat bought last year with 450m pesetas (£1.25m) of borrowed money. "We'll have trouble paying it off if Mr Fischler has his way," he warns.

He takes me into the office and turns the pages of the accounts book that logs the olives coming in, the oil going out. "We have to send copies to the ministry every month, and two or three times a year an inspector descends and checks everything. We might make a mistake sometimes, but there's certainly no fraud," he says, affronted.

Balmey Andalusia, often portrayed as Spain's flowery paradise, has historically been a semi-feudal nest of peasant revolt. In the 1970s, the conservative prime minister, Adolfo Suarez, was constantly afraid of social upheaval by legions of Andalusian *jornaleros* forced to choose between emigration or destitution. Then, as now, the problem was lack of work between harvests.

Dole, and government make-work schemes, have lessened the danger. But Francisco fears the consequences unless Mr Fischler thinks again. "It'll be war," he predicts.

of weeds and grass to increase the quality and the yield," he explains.

This task, with the harvest that lasts about nine weeks, provides

the only employment for some 300,000 Spanish day-labourers or *jornaleros*. Francisco says Brussels' plans to reform the subsidy system will eliminate

these jobs. The EU Agriculture Commissioner, Franz Fischler, wants to subsidise each tree, instead of the oil produced, to help eliminate fraud.

"Obviously," says Francisco, "there'll be no incentive to tend the trees, so they'll be abandoned and our *jornaleros* will be idle. How will they live? There's

nothing else here. If Fischler is worried about fraud, he should strengthen controls, not destroy jobs. We are very worried."

Worry and anger brought

more than 50,000 olive-oil workers and growers to Madrid last week to protest outside the European Commission's office. The demonstration, joined briefly by the Minister of Agriculture, Loyola de Palacio, crowned a week-long march on the capital from Cordoba.

Jose Alonso Cervilla, who represents the olive sector on the farmers' organisation Coag, was among the marchers and will join dozens of growers taking a train to Strasbourg, Bonn, Brussels and Amsterdam, where they will protest at the EU summit on 16 June.

"Fischler isn't even saving money with this proposal," Mr Cervilla complains, as he and Francisco size up the budlike young olives. "It costs the same, 2bn ecu, whether you subsidise the output or the tree. Most fraud is perpetrated by small producers, but our producers are mainly medium and large. Now Italy, they're mostly small producers."

Italy is the focus of resentment. Mr Fischler overestimates the number of Italian trees, while underestimating the Spanish, so Italians win out at Spanish expense, Mr Cervilla says. "Olives are the only thing Spain has got left. EU farm policy has cut production

Mafia's rising star arrested in dawn raid

Andrew Gumbel
Rome

The most wanted man in the Sicilian Mafia, the young Palermo boss Pietro Aglieri, was tracked down and arrested yesterday morning in a textbook police operation that breathed new life into Italy's increasingly despondent struggle against organised crime.

The 38-year-old Aglieri, known as "U Signurinu" (the little lord) for his relatively sophisticated education and refined manners, was taken by surprise while hiding out in a disused lemon warehouse in the dilapidated industrial area of Bagheria, east of Palermo.

A dozen police in full assault gear, who had been staking out the premises all night, hurled two volleys of sun gas before bursting into the building and slapping Aglieri in handcuffs along with two of his closest associates, Natale Gambino and Giuseppe La Mattina.

Aglieri, wanted for a string of prominent killings including those of the anti-Mafia magistrates Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, was believed to have been rebuilding the military wing of Cosa Nostra, which

has been devastated by a series of high-profile arrests over the past four years.

Aglieri is considered one of the sharpest brains in the Mafia and a man singularly talented at covering up his tracks. Although active since the early 1980s, his name was not even brought to prosecutors' attention until 1989. It took the authorities almost a year to locate him following the arrest of his right-hand man, Carlo Greco.

As late as Thursday night, the authorities were not sure of his identity and had to call on the captured Mafia killer Giovanni Brusca, a former senior colleague of Aglieri's, to confirm it.

As reported in *The Independent* a month ago, prosecutors in Palermo have been growing increasingly gloomy about their job because of restrictive new legislation on the justice system and an attempt to cut back the country's witness protection programme. Palermo's chief prosecutor, Giancarlo Caselli said yesterday: "We feel proud because some ill-informed people had claimed that the advent of Mafia informers had diminished our investigative abilities," he said. "Now they will have to think again."



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a fight

Tarnished landscape: Workers and farmers from Andalusia, the biggest olive-oil producing region in the world, are taking their fight against a proposed change in subsidies to the Amsterdam summit on 16 June

After 73 years, Russians may grant this man his dying wish

Phil Reeves
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin wants Russia to hold a public referendum to decide whether the embalmed body of Lenin should continue to lie in a mausoleum in Red Square, or whether the founder of the atheist Soviet state should have a Christian burial.

In remarks deliberately chosen to antagonise his Communist foes, the president made it clear where he stands on the issue by arguing that it is high time that the mummified remains of the Bolshevik revolutionary, who died 73 years ago, are removed from public view.

"Lenin must be buried," he told an audience in St Petersburg, home

of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution. "Let's make it look Christian. The dead must be buried in the earth. His mother is buried here in St Petersburg. Lenin asked to be buried here in his will, but his wish was ignored... it must be done in a gradual, civilised way without either bulldozers or excavators."

In Soviet times, millions used to visit Lenin's mausoleum in Moscow

every year to peer admiringly through bullet-proofed glass at his wax-like body, which was kept at a carefully monitored temperature and annually re-embalmed. But his fortunes have since waned. In 1993, he lost his guard of honour; recently, visitors to his tomb have slowed to a trickle.

Mr Yeltsin, who called for a public ballot in the autumn, has taken

up the touchy question of Lenin's fate several times before.

He does so knowing it will produce cries of horror from Russia's Duma (lower house parliament) whose large Communist contingent still revere the revolutionary leader.

When the issue surfaced earlier this year, there were furious protests in parliament which passed a

resolution condemning any attempt to move the body from its red granite tomb as "an act of vandalism".

In particular, the president's latest remarks are intended to stoke the fires of his rolling conflict with the legislature, which he is trying to pressure into signing a new tax code. Amid veiled threats that he might dissolve the Duma altogether, Mr

Yeltsin has given it three weeks to pass the code.

While the Kremlin and parliament wrangle, ordinary Russians appear divided over what to do with Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, who died at the age of 54 after earlier suffering three strokes. A recent poll found that 38 per cent felt his body should be left alone, while 48 per cent wanted him to be buried in a cemetery.



Penultimate resting place?: Visitors to Lenin's tomb have slowed to a trickle. Now Yeltsin wants a referendum on what to do with the body

Photograph: Peter Andrews/Reuters

significant shorts

President's men set to sweep Algeria election

Close allies of President Liamine Zeroual swept to victory yesterday in Algeria's new parliament after the first general election in more than five years of bloodshed, blamed by officials on Muslim fundamentalists.

The result, ensuring the President's paramount powers should be largely unchallenged in parliament, brought cries of foul from parties trailing the dominant National Democratic Rally (RND).

Interior Minister Mustapha Benmansour said the RND, formed only two months ago, took 155 seats in the 380-seat assembly, it eclipsed the Islam-oriented Movement of a Peaceful Society (MPS) which won 69 seats and third-placed National Liberation Front (FLN), with 64 seats, which as the former sole ruling party had run the state for nearly three decades. Turnout was 55.49 per cent.

Reuters - Algiers

Scientists put on the spot

Federal and state law officials agreed to place the Church of Scientology under nationwide surveillance by counter-intelligence agents because of the church's alleged anti-democratic aims. The decision marks the first formal nationwide action against Scientology, though individual states, political parties and cabinet ministers have frequently spoken out against the group.

AP - Bonn

Kurdish missiles alarm Turkey

A Turkish military spokesman said Kurdish rebels had used sophisticated anti-aircraft missiles to shoot down two army helicopters on a mission in northern Iraq.

General Erol Ozkaskan said the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) rebels had for the first time gained access to such weaponry from countries which Turkey accuses of supporting the rebels. He said the PKK used SA-7 missiles to bring down a troop carrier with 11 officers and soldiers on board earlier this week.

Reuters - Ankara

Plea for Nato to stay in Bosnia

International envoy Carl Bildt warned that Bosnia's fragile peace could collapse if Nato peace-keeping troops withdraw in a year, when their mandate expires. "If we were to walk away from the entire thing tomorrow, I think it is likely to fall apart," said Mr Bildt, who is due to step down this month as High Representative to Bosnia.

Reuters - Sarajevo

University shamed over ban

A Hong Kong university overturned an earlier ban and agreed to allow its students to display on campus a sculpture symbolising oppression, a student leader said. The University of Hong Kong made the decision on the "Pillar of Shame" monument after a meeting with students.

Reuters - Hong Kong

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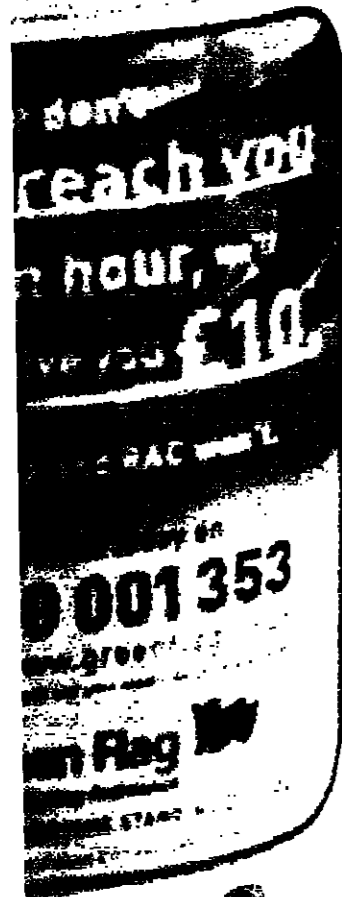
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Malmö 97



‘We say there is a role for Government. But the role of government has changed. It is there to promote the skills, to let them flourish ... It is not the role envisaged by the old left.’

Tony Blair yesterday



Europe's Left: United we

Lionel
and Tony
staunch
... how
stand so

French want new look at deal on euro

Sarah Helm
Malmö

The new French government will this weekend light a fuse under the single currency by calling for a radical rethink of the agreed rule-book for the euro.

So far-reaching are the demands that the issue of monetary union is now expected to overshadow the European summit in Amsterdam in 10 days' time.

Some European leaders were even predicting last night that the summit, when Europe hopes to sign a new



Theo Waigel: Chief architect of Emu stability pact

treaty, may have to be delayed. Lionel Jospin, the new Socialist French Prime Minister, let it be known at this week's European Socialist congress in the Swedish city of Malmö that he will seek to re-open the "stability pact", the detailed plan for governing the euro zone.

The pact, designed to German lines, was agreed after intensive negotiations at the Dublin summit in December and was due to receive final endorsement from all 15 heads of government at Amsterdam.

Mr Jospin now wants to renegotiate the pact in order to give greater emphasis to jobs and growth. France is also canvassing plans for a change to the Maastricht rules to create a powerful economic "government" which could set eco-

nomie policy for Europe and act as a counterweight to the future European central bank. The ideas are expected to be raised at a dinner to be attended by European finance ministers in Luxembourg tomorrow.

Speaking in Malmö, Mr Jospin refused to comment directly on his ideas for the stability pact but stressed repeatedly the need for European monetary union to concentrate on creating jobs and promoting investment.

He also pointedly refused to endorse current Emu rules or its timetable. "On Emu we do not know what is going to happen. We must clarify the prospects there."

Any attempt by France to rewrite the stability pact would be fiercely resisted by Germany, and a clash looks likely at a Franco-German summit next week, just three days before the Amsterdam meeting.

Germany has presented the stability pact to its public as a bulwark against a weak euro. Under the pact, countries who do not obey strict economic rules after the euro launch would be subject to a system of fines.

In particular, Germany would resist attempts to build an economic government which could undermine the independence of the Central Bank.

Theo Waigel, the German finance minister and chief architect of the pact, has already suffered a dent in credibility after his botched attempts to revalue German gold reserves in order to help the country meet the Maastricht criteria.

Mr Jospin is understood to be planning to call for the re-writing of the key article 103 in the Maastricht treaty in order to establish an economic government consisting of Europe's ministers for financial and social affairs.

French government sources say Mr Jospin is also considering a new borrowing programme to promote European reconstruction.

Kohl lectured on reforms

Imre Karacs
Bonn

Prime Minister Tony Blair yesterday sought to convert Helmut Kohl to the cause of reformism in Europe.

In his first official meeting with the German Chancellor, Mr Blair subjected his host to a lecture on monetary union and the need to galvanise the continent's faltering economies. On the day that German unemployment figures registered a leap of 50,000, the Prime Minister canvassed his host's support for a radical overhaul of Europe's jobs market.

"Above all, I want a new approach to Europe," Mr Blair wrote in an article published yesterday on the front page of *Bild Zeitung*, Germany's leading tabloid.

At his meeting with the German Chancellor, Mr Blair asked for his help to get the British blue-print for a flexible European workforce into the revised Maastricht treaty. Chancellor Kohl, in charge of a right-of-centre government, was said to prefer the Blairite version to

the programme co-sponsored by the French Socialists and the German Social Democrats.

At a joint appearance before their meeting in Bonn, Mr Blair said he was "working very hard" to ensure that the Inter-governmental Conference will wind up successfully at the Amsterdam summit later this month. He vowed to strive for "warm and strong relations between Britain and Germany".

There were, however, many areas of disagreement. Britain was concerned over the fate of Eurofighter, a multi-purpose aircraft to be built by four EU states.

Mr Blair also tried to enlist Mr Kohl's help in the football wars. The English Football Association's campaign for the right to stage the World Cup in 2006 was recently described by the footballer "Kaiser" Franz Beckenbauer as a "stab in the back". In this heated climate, it is hard to see how Mr Kohl could help. Any German leader caught backing the English against German footballers would lay himself open to a charge of being remote from his people.

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Lionel Jospin and Tony Blair are launching socialists how can they and so far apart?



Malmö 97



Market forces have to be exploited and put to the service of the people. Market forces have to be controlled so the energy generated strengthens our public services.

Lionel Jospin yesterday

SARAH HELM
in Malmö

Female delegates in the auditorium groaned when he spoke of cherishing "the family". When trite words were spoken on the subject of crime fighting and the citizen, they yawned. But when Tony Blair spelled out his ideas for modernising Europe and job creation, people rose to their feet, applauding. What appealed most of all was his call for radical change and rejection of the ways of the old Socialist past.

Lionel Jospin, Europe's other brand-new Socialist leader, also raised applause when he spoke yesterday to the European Socialists' Congress in the Swedish city of Malmö.

And, unlike Mr Blair, Mr Jospin raised some laughs, admitting that nobody was as surprised as him to have seen the Socialists swept to victory in last Sunday's French elections. But it was Mr Blair who caught the mood of the moment yesterday, while Mr Jospin's vision of the future appeared to leave people cold.

There was puzzlement and even fear at some of the French Prime Minister's policy proposals which seem to hark back to the past. And Mr Blair himself seemed keen to keep a distance from Mr Jospin - failing to congratulate him in his speech, whereas the French Prime Minister showered Mr Blair with warm praise.

It was a perfect opportunity yesterday for Europeans to hear their two newest Socialist leaders set out their respective visions of the future and to test the differences.

The two men, of course, struck many similar themes. This was a joyous occasion for Europe's Socialists riding a wave of excitement and enjoying their new supremacy on the European political stage.

Both leaders determined to demonstrate they were part of the same "happy political family", spoke of social equality. Both warned that Europe had become remote from its people and both recognised the paramount need to answer the unemployment crisis which has led to 18 million unemployed in the European Union.

But it was Mr Blair who touched the mood of the moment with his forthright dismissal of old "statist" ways and his outright rebuttal of regulation or state control as the solution to Europe's problems.

Instead he spoke of a "third way" by which government should work to "empower" people to develop their own skills in order to stand up to the forces of change. Even on the question of the Social Chapter his caution and warnings found little resistance. Mr Blair told his audience that minimum standards of social provision were vital but not if they hindered job creation or led to red tape.

Blair's vision was welcomed in the corridors outside. "From the substance of what I have heard, I very much like Tony Blair's vision of change," said Karel Van Miert, Europe's Commissioner for the Single Market. "Blair says we must not look backwards. We must place an emphasis on education and skills, that is all good."

Dutch leaders embraced Mr Blair's philosophy which they believe they in the Netherlands are already implementing with widespread success. "On flexible job markets and minimum standards for social provision, we are already forging ahead," said one senior Dutch official. "Tony Blair's vision is in line with ours," he added.

Mr Blair's message went down well, too, with German Socialist delegates. "We prefer the pragmatic Blair approach," said Barbara Weller, a member of the European Parliament for the German Socialists, the SPD. "We have already shifted our thinking towards the Blair approach in many respects in our party."

Mr Jospin, as predicted, placed greater emphasis on the

need for governments to regulate and control the economy in order to direct the changes caused by globalisation. "The market has to be regulated. Its forces have to be channelled so the energy generated can help produce investment, to produce growth," he said.

Such comments, though not explicitly calling for a return to the interventionist ways of the old left, nevertheless produced fears that France would not be able to take a lead in Europe's reforms.

Mr Van Miert said: "I feel some turbulence when I listen to Mr Jospin." Ad Melkert, the Dutch Social Affairs Minister said: "I preferred listening to Mr Blair, whose message was to keep the status quo."

More worrying to those listening to Mr Jospin, perhaps, was the emphasis he seemed to place on the role of the nation-state. Europe, the French Prime Minister suggested, should have less role in the future in directing economic affairs, and he declared the state to be the "core of European democracy".

Mr Blair, meanwhile, showed a clear recognition of the need for European instruments in key areas of policy, particularly in the field of employment. One Belgian minister commented: "Mr Jospin's words have puzzled us. Does he want to renationalise policy in the economic field, is that what he means?"

Few at the congress wanted to play up the differences between the two men, many French delegates insisted the visions were "complementary". Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, spoke guardedly of differences in "nuance", but it was clear that not only amongst the northern Europeans but also amongst the new Labourites of Portugal, Italy and even Spain, Mr Blair's words struck more of a chord.

Delegates warned that Mr Blair still needed to prove that his changes could come to fruition in his own country before real faith could be placed in his leadership qualities in the rest of the European Union. But Mr Blair himself must have left the congress well aware that it was his speech which won a standing ovation and not that of Mr Jospin.

Asked whether Mr Blair could become the first British leader to take a truly central role on the European stage, many delegates replied: "In time, why not?"

German left (out)

Rudolf Scharping of Germany, leader of the Party of European Socialists, said socialism has as many faces as there are socialist parties in Europe. "But overall it's the same idea: defend the people's right, be close to the people."

"It was not such a long time ago that people were saying the whole idea of socialism was out-of-date," he told the opening session of the Socialist get-together.

But now, "we have become so strong in Europe that cannot allow ourselves the luxury of behaving like an opposition party."

Germany is one of only two countries in Europe where the left plays no role in government.

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Happy in her work: Clare Short with political aides at her ministry. I'm determined Britain will use all its influence everywhere to get the world committed to halving poverty by 2015 - and going on to seek eradication of poverty. It's the most important thing you can do. Photograph: Andrew Buirman

The new Joan of Arc, or what?

Steve Crawshaw spends a week with the saintly Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, and is impressed as she sets to work on changing the world

She strews optimism like brightly coloured confetti on a summer's day. "Isn't it wonderful?" she keeps asking, as she talks of "beautiful opportunities" and "history going in a beautiful cycle". After a day of this optimism has washed over you, it becomes difficult to resist.

Clare Short, the woman the tabloids once loved to hate, now runs a ministry of her own. And, she wants the world to know, she is *loving* it. As Secretary of State for International Development, she is in charge of the country's most forgotten department - what used to be known as the Overseas Development Administration, often perceived as merely giving away "our" money to the rest of the world, a kind of lottery writ large. Ms Short clearly finds it astonishing that her department's work is somehow regarded as less important, or less marketable to the public.

She was sacked as shadow transport minister after being too outspoken. Now she says: "It is extraordinary that to go from transport to the future of the planet and its people and these high levels of poverty is considered a demotion. But in

the pecking order of British politics, it is."

The woman who famously confronted *The Sun* over Page Three girls, and who is now one of Britain's most popular politicians, is not likely to shy away from a tough fight. She insists that Britain can help to spearhead change around the world.

Listening in to a string of her meetings this week - World Bank officials, an African finance minister, a Latin American ambassador, media advisers, debt advisers, a non-stop stream that is barely interrupted by a couple of early-afternoon *Prêt à Manger* sandwiches - the overwhelming impression is of an enthusiasm which carries her through the day, on to the next day and the day after that.

Ms Short, once herself a civil servant, fairly gushes about those now working for her. "You see what fabulous discussions we have here. They're special, the people here. There's this wonderful mix of experts and civil servants. The mix is just beautiful." Her civil servants seem ready to return

the compliment. "It's very exciting," says one official. Another says admiringly, in her presence: "It's frightening, to have the Secretary of State trying to measure our progress towards the things we want to do."

Ms Short and her advisers are more than busy. This week, they were discussing the preparation of a White Paper on aid. She hopes to launch it with a fanfare, in time for it to enjoy a "starring role" at the party conference in the autumn. The idea sounds like a contradiction in terms. But if anybody can give aid a starring role, then it must be Ms Short.

The main thrust of the paper is likely to emphasise the idea of "partnerships" with countries receiving aid - and, above all, the idea that real and permanent change can be achieved. She is scornful of any approach which fails to attack the root causes of poverty. "Elimination, not alleviation" of poverty has become her buzz-word. Fantasy? Maybe. But it would be a brave man or woman who would say so in her presence.

"History," she says, "has created an opportunity. History does move in eras... We are beginning to see political change across the world. The ageing Sixties kids - which we are - are starting to come to power, in different countries." Taking as her starting point a report by the OECD, "The Rich Countries' Club", which argues that it would be possible to halve poverty by 2015, she wants to do just that.

Labour criticises the Conservatives for halving the level of aid over the past two decades. But - partly, no doubt, with a view to keeping Gordon Brown sweet - an increase in the departmental budget is not top of Ms Short's proclaimed agenda. She insists that quality and targeting count for more than quantity. Labour has pledged to more than double the level of aid to the 0.7 per cent of GNP recommended by the United Nations (the current level is 0.27 per cent). But she gets agitated if anyone starts pressing her for targets or deadlines. Instead, she emphasises that increased aid does not in itself solve the problems. She says more money could, at one level, merely lead to more fiascos like the Pergau dam in Malaysia, where aid and trade were notoriously merged, more for the benefit of UK contractors than local people. "I am irritated with a lot of people who think it's the only question

about development. We could double our spend, and have more Pergau dams."

Her predecessor, "poor Lynda Chalker", was "a good woman, fallen among thieves." One constant problem for Baroness Chalker was that her department was subordinate to the Foreign Office, for whom commerce and *realpolitik* came first - hence, Pergau.

Theoretically, the new Foreign Office is now "ethical", so the game has changed. And Ms Short believes it is "phenomenally important" that there is now a separate department, with its own Cabinet seat. "The Foreign Office have to look to Britain's short-term commercial and political interests... Once you have said development is a key priority, you take it away from those other considerations, and say we want to elevate development in its own right."

There will, she says, be "creative tensions". The Foreign Office, Treasury and others will sometimes have different concerns. But woe betide them, one suspects, if they try to put Clare Short in the corner.

Her unceremonious booting out as shadow transport secretary last year clearly still rankles. "It was public humiliation - and that is not a pleasant thing to happen to anyone." She insists, however, that it was the manner of the removal, not her place of exile, that offended her. "If, when I was

asked to do transport [in 1995], I had been invited to do either transport or this, I would have chosen this. I love the portfolio. I want to stick with this for long enough so that it's absolutely bedded in. I'm determined that Britain will use all its influence everywhere to get the world committed to halving levels of poverty by 2015 - and going on to seek eradication of poverty. It's the most important thing you can do."

Clare Short may have seemed to the "people who live in the dark" (her phrase) to be a danger for the carefully constructed unanimity of New Labour. From the outside, it seems the other way round. Clare Short, perceived as Decent and Outspoken Human Being, is an asset that the party can ill afford to dispense with. Even now, as a loyal government minister, her presence provides a guarantee that the party cannot get too arrogant or devious. She would be the first to cry foul. After last year's mauling, she received more than 2,000 letters of support.

Even now, she sees no need to button her lip. At a meeting with colleagues from the Labour Party, she notes in passing the extravagance of some of the venues for government hospitality. "Lancaster House - it's a very big place. I think we should flog it off." There is a *frisson* as the

media warning lights start flashing among the Millbank-trained crowd around the table: they indicate to the minister that the journalistic fly-on-the-sofa is still sitting across the room, notebook in hand. She looks up, startled - and grins.

Ask what she thinks about the continuing attempts of Labour's media-masters to keep loose cannon in the party under control, and she makes evasive comments, while her expression twitches at the thought of tossing out some honest and mischievous remark. Finally, she decides to be more or less discreet, for the moment. "You're trying to get me into trouble," she says happily. And moves on.

The department remains only one chunk of her life. Her in-tray in her ministerial office includes a giant pile sent down by the constituency secretary in Birmingham Ladywood, whose MP she has been since 1983. She drives herself or takes the train to Birmingham for week-end constituency surgeries; while in Ladywood, she lives with her mother. Swimming with friends at the local pool remains a regular fixture. Then perhaps the cinema for escapism relaxation (*Babe*, the cute pig-as-sheepdog fantasy, was a favourite last year; *Trainspotting* was not), followed by an Indian meal with friends. Reading is mostly boning up on international development. After publicly sharing her happiness

at being reunited with her son Toby last year - an event which triggered yet more public warmth towards her - she now asks for privacy in that regard. But it is clear that mother and son remain close.

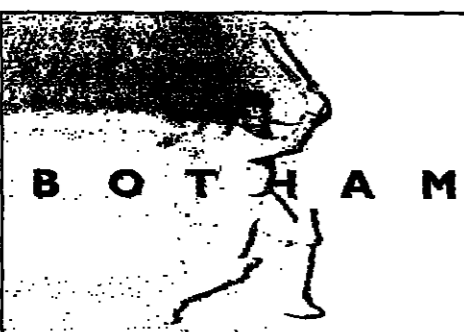
Even as Secretary of State, she sometimes still travels to work by bus, where she rubs shoulders with the man and woman on the real Clapham omnibus, the 77A. (She does not seem keen to talk about this; media trivialisation, she seems to be muttering under her breath.) Standing in the morning bus queue is unlikely to remain part of the ministerial routine: because of some fabulously arcane Whitehall rules, she is allowed to take her scarlet dispatch boxes on trains, but not on buses. But, however she gets to work, Ms Short is determined not to become part of the chauffeur-driven other-worldly classes.

Asked about her current popularity, she tells a cautionary tale. "We were shopping in Sainsbury's with one of my sisters, for a family do. People kept coming up and saying nice things. My sister said: 'But what will they be saying in two years?' I said, that's right. But the important thing is that I've got to still be here - in Sainsbury's, on the train, on the street. If they're saying: 'Huh! Not so pleased about that!', we need to hear that. I think the Tory government separated itself from the country in the end. It's lovely to be loved, and for people to be nice. But it's also a responsibility. If you start to disappoint people, you've done something dreadful."

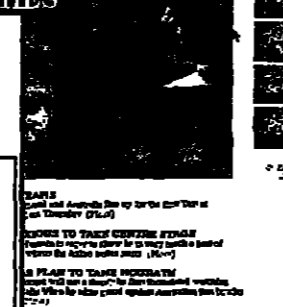
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I was pleased to see Janet McTeer win an award in the US for her role in *A Doll's House*. I saw it in London and it restored my faith in West End theatre, which can be so unpredictable. Rave reviews don't necessarily mean anything. Another production I saw recently, described as "devastating", was the biggest load of old tosh I have sat through for a long time. A few actors off the telly and a lot of hype do not a devastating production make; and critics are not always right, even if they are convinced they are.

I am getting through the last two weeks of the tour and starting to feel slightly jaded. Did Leicester on Sunday evening, which proved to be a bit of a drunken affair, as it seemed the good burghers of Leicester - quite a few of them, at least - had been at the bottle for much of the beautifully sunny day and had taken to heckling.

Hecklers are not a uniform mob. They vary from sober and clever, to drunk and a total pain in the bum. We got the latter, and in this case, however many pot-downs you do, the hecklers are so out of it that it makes no difference. The constant nonsensical

rubbish they come out with cannot be stopped by the usual approach, and a little extra encouragement to behave, from a big scary bloke (John, our tour manager), normally does the trick.

The phrase "care in the community" sounds so warm and elicits echoes of a rustic England when everyone knew and kept an eye on everyone else. Unfortunately, it has come to mean a substitute for decent care for those with mental health problems, because facilities are poor and staff are stretched. Added to that, a great proportion of the community does not want to care because it has swallowed the alarmist approach the tabloids take, drip-feeding us with images of machete-wielding wildmen. Thus, many centres for those with mental health problems are prevented from opening because of protest from the local community. I'm sure if you look at the statistics, you will find that the most dangerous potential assailants are not those living in a community hostel, but probably these children's own fathers.

I am not sure how Bill Clinton can actually carry on doing his

job and not just crawl into a hole with a very red face, given the farcical events in the sexual harassment case against him. Paula Jones, who alleges he dropped his knickers in a Little Rock hotel, insists she can identify his genital area because of "distinguishing characteristics". What on earth does she mean? Is it size? A birthmark? A hideous deformity? No wonder Bill doesn't want to take part in the strangest identity parade ever.

Did you know that Britain is second only to Germany in lawn-mower ownership? Makes you proud, doesn't it, to know that compared with Italy or France, we are nearly up with the Germans in keeping our lawns trim. I think keeping your garden nice is a metaphor for other

areas of life, and to know that we can hold our heads up and say "we don't let our lawns get overgrown" places us right at the heart of Europe. Sorry, just slipped into a *Daily Mail* editorial there.

Having seen a team of women find their way to the Pole this week, I feel somewhat ashamed to describe a problem we had in Ipswich on Wednesday night. We had all been for a curry in town, and a three-vehicle convoy set off to find our hotel. John stayed on the mobile phone as a hotel receptionist talked him through directions, *à la air* traffic control bringing in a crippled jumbo. Having circled a roundabout three or four times, we came to a crucial junction, at which point the phone cut out.

Luckily, further up the road, we spotted a very small wooden sign for the hotel, reversed the convoy back up the road and turned in - to find ourselves in someone's garden. Getting a group of two cars and a big van back out on to a country road is not easy, especially when you are giggling hysterically. John and I are supposed to be doing the RAC rally for charity this year. I predict we won't even find the start.

Baby Spice plummeting off her shoes has been big news this week, as it was when Naomi Campbell did a dive off her platforms at a fashion show. But women still totter round like still-walkers, damaging themselves and making themselves vulnerable - because if there's one thing you can't do in big shoes, it's run like hell from an attack. That's not Girl Power, that's Girl Impotence.

We women continue to swallow this line that it's unladylike or even proof of being a lesbian if you wear flat shoes like Doc Martens. I'm prepared to put up with that accusation, because at least my feet aren't killing me and I don't look like a bandy ostrich.

هنا من الأصل

foreign parts

we know who discovered America, Australia, the Antarctic – and now the clitoris

david aaronovitch

The 16th century was an era of exploration and discovery. Men set out in leaky wooden boats, and traversed mighty oceans in search of *terra incognita*. One – Cristóforo Colón (Columbus) – discovered America. And others, such as his namesake Mateo Colón – a scientist at the University of Padua – paddled about with bodies hot and cold and discovered ... the clitoris.

We owe this rediscovery of the original clitoral pioneer to the Argentinian novelist Federico Andahaz, whose prize-winning novel *El Anatomista* reconstructs Colón's voyage into the nether regions. It borrows heavily from Colón's *De Re Anatomica* ("let's start at the very beginning/a very good place to start ...") and indicates just how the scientist substituted the word "clitoris" for the legend "here the dragons" on the anatomical map of woman.

So there we are. We know who discovered America, Australia, the Antarctic and the clitoris. True, a correspondent to this newspaper, Graeme Fife, revealed on Thursday that the Latin poet Juvenal had already made reference to the clitoris, though for some Roman reason he called it "cock's comb". But Mr Fife will allow that we then had to wait one-and-a-half millennia before the clitoris reappeared. So Juvenal's knowledge is a bit like Eric the Red's Vineland voyage; he went there, but he didn't quite manage to "discover" the thing properly (which may account for the cock's comb).

Well, of course, centuries before Columbus – or even Eric the Red – hundreds of thousands of Amerindians criss-crossed the prairies and pueblitos of the "undiscovered" continent. They pitched their tepees on unknown lands, grew crops in virgin soil and drank from uncharted streams. They even had names for all these places (though many of them were too long).

And my guess is that the same is probably true of the clitoris. From what little I know of that fabulous organ, I should imagine that – over the million or so years of

human history – a few women may have discovered it for themselves, even if only accidentally. After all, while it is quite feasible that the quinquetermes of Nineveh – unable ever to travel more than a few miles from land – might have missed America, the same geographical improbability hardly applies to the clitoris. I will say no more.

However, that is not what we have come to mean by "discovery". If we look at how the term is used, we see that it applies only under certain very precise circumstances. First, in general white men must do the discovering. There is a little latitude here, as in "the Chinese first used gunpowder", but only because we know perfectly well that they failed to "discover" it properly. If they had, then we would now be negotiating to get the Isle of Wight back from them.

Second, once they have found the thing, the white men must write it all up in scholarly fashion. This Amerindians and women both failed to do. Where are the Bigfoot maps of Montana? And I challenge the politically correct brigade to uncover one major tract written by a woman on the subject of the clitoris before, say, 1850. They just couldn't be fagged.

Finally – to qualify fully – the discovery must be "useful", in the sense that the discoverer must be followed out to the thing discovered, by thousands of their fellow white men searching for riches, freedom and a reputation as a fantastic lay.

All that then remains is the battle over nomenclature. It still rumbles that the continent for which Columbus crossed the ocean blue was named after that johnny-come-lately Amerigo Vesputi (though we ought to be thankful that there is no such place as Vesputia). And it is passing odd, is it not, that the clitoris doesn't bear the name of the man who first discovered it. If it did, then the sexual history of the 20th century might have been very different. And clitoral irrigation would certainly have become even more popular with princesses than it is at the moment.

As worn at the fall of the House of Windsor

by Glenda Cooper

By lunchtime the queue stretched round the block, but the women waiting to see a collection of second-hand clothes didn't seem to mind.

"It's the mystique of her," said one. "It's a moment in a tragic history."

"It's like looking at a jacket with someone's blood on it or a bullet hole through it," another added. "Looking at these dresses, you're looking at the fall of the house of Windsor. Diana is a tragic figure."

The chiffon, the satin, the sequins – they were all vested in historical significance as visitors to Christie's in London this week waited to pore over the 79 gowns that Diana, Princess of Wales, is auctioning for charity in New York at the end of the month.

They crowded into a small room hung in royal purple and festooned with blown-up pictures of the Princess to look at the good, the bad and the downright fashion disasters that make up the life of Diana over the past 15 years, from the flounces and furbelows of Shy Di to the sleek armour of Diana the survivor.

Christie's has been averaging a thousand visitors a day – nearly three a minute – who come to gaze reverentially at the Princess's cast-offs. Entry to the exhibition is conditional on buying a catalogue, the cheapest version of which is £30. By Wednesday, more than a million dollars had been made on catalogues alone. All 250 of the limited-edition £1,250 catalogues, leather-bound and signed by the Princess, have been snapped up, and the £150 canvas-bound ones are also selling well.

Christie's is not putting a reserve price on any of the dresses, but the sale is expected to raise £4m. The two dresses that have excited the most interest are lot 80, a Victor Edelstein in oyster satin, which Diana models on the front of the catalogue, and lot 2, the wispy black chiffon that Diana wore on the night of her husband's public admission of adultery, which swept her husband off the front pages in spectacular fashion. "The dress caused an awful lot of comment at the time and subsequently," the catalogue comments dryly, "not only for its daring asymmetrical ruching."

The Princess has said that she hopes whoever buys the dresses will get as much enjoyment out of them as she did. While institutions and museums may be interested, word leaked out last week that several leading members of New York's drag queen community have expressed an interest.



Most of those who crowded Christie's this week could not afford a dress to Di for – although some had spent considerable amounts of money to get to London. Rather, they wanted to pay their respects to Diana their heroine. It would be enough to make the Prince of Wales gnash his royal teeth if he could see the reverence that his ex-wife still inspires. Here was tribute to Diana of the Sorrows, St Diana of Chelsea Harbour. Despite the "do not touch" signs, surreptitious hands reached out. If we were living in more superstitious times, one could imagine every community having a few threads to work signs and wonders.

"I came because I admire her so much," said Phyllis Okenyl. "I think she's wonderful. She does so much for charity. She's a wonderful mother – the way she's brought up her family and the way she's come through all her

troubles and defined herself." Mrs Okenyl and her friend Thelma Hyde had taken the day off work and travelled down from Yorkshire, at a cost of £50. Add to that the £150 that Mrs Okenyl's husband had spent on the catalogue for her, and it's a fair sum to see some dresses you have no chance of buying.

She wasn't the only one. Women had travelled from Pembrokeshire and Cardiff as well as Essex, or had simply popped in during their lunch hour.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Barbara Reeves, summing up the general feeling. "There would be no one else who would get this kind of reaction – certainly not anyone else in the Royal Family. It's a mixture of things: the fairy-tale that isn't, the experiences she had, and the wonderful dress she wore the night of Charles's documentary – that was really making a statement."



Fit for a heroine: thousands of Di's fans have come to Christie's to wonder at her wardrobe

They crowded into a small room to look at the good, the bad and the downright fashion disasters that make up the life of Diana over the past 15 years

Would people have crowded so much to see Diana's furniture or other possessions?

Dr Halla Beloff, a social psychologist in Edinburgh, said the interest in her gowns reflects the importance that we attach to clothes. "It's the function of clothes to show the world who we are, or who we would like them to think we are. That may be relatively near what we are, or not."

"Clothes are very intimate," added Dr Martin Skinner, lecturer in psychology at Warwick University. "They have been owned by her, chosen by her because they represent something to her. They are associated with her, and her physical presence makes them more special than, say, her house or her other possessions."

Some of the women didn't like the thought of someone else wearing Diana's clothes. "Who could carry it off better?" said Phyllis Okenyl.

"Who else could wear purple and pink together, I ask you? She's a superstar."

"I hear some of those drag queens in America want to buy them," said Ann Harring from Harnleedon, who had bought the catalogue for her daughter as a present. "I just don't think that would be right to see her dresses on them."

"I suppose wealthy people might buy them to try to acquire a bit of her mystique, or if they have wonderful figures," said Maxine Knight of Pembrokeshire. "I don't think I could get my left thigh into one of them!"

A few streets away in the

local Oxford shop, the assistant said pleasantly that while anyone's clothes were welcomed, the price fixing guide indicated only the condition of the clothes and the sort of fabric, and not the status of the owner.

Yes, there was a nice red one from Next which wasn't that far distant from lot 14, a dance dress by Bruce Oldfield, for £7.99 in size 8. "What's the difference?" he asked. "They've both been owned by someone else."

Dr Skinner disagrees: "It is like the story of the woman in the Bible, where she did not try to touch Jesus, just the hem of his cloak. Clothes have that much power."

Africa's destiny in its own hands

A new form of colonialism may be right for the regional powers of the continent, says Trevor Phillips

Africa strode across our stage several times this week, both literally and figuratively, and did so with a confidence that we have not associated with the continent for many years. Let us leave the depressing bit – Sierra Leone – out of consideration for the moment, and turn our attention to a joyously liberating event taking place in Hackney during the next week or so. Les Ballets Africains, the national dance company of Guinea, have taken their hugely physical, rhythmic and colourful show *Heritage* to the Hackney Empire theatre.

It is an astonishing show. The 35 dancers and musicians transform a rather banal series of episodes which (I think) concern a young musician's wanderings into a pulsating two-hour roller-coaster ride. The music makes you want to get up and dance. The sight of the dancers' perfectly honed, athletic bodies, male and female, remind you how pathetic your own shuffling efforts would look next to what's happening on the stage. Yet this is not just a souped-up African version of morris dancing. It is truly up African in style, and has a clear physical ballet in that it is stylised, and has a clear physical language that works with the musical narrative brilliantly. But art aside, what you see here is the New Africa prophesied by Nelson Mandela. The young performers swagger across the stage with no attempt to validate their work in European terms, and they offer no compromises to classical dance. But they are not frozen in the past; the men, who seem to fly through the air, also throw in some American-style break dancing, almost without breaking sweat. It is great, and it gives a flavour of what Africa could be – and it gives a flavour of what Africa is. That is talented, unapologetic and whinge-free. That is what a really independent, post-colonial Africa would feel like.

The irony of this taking place at the Hackney Empire strikes you as you walk through the Edwardian columns and hallways of the theatre. When it opened in 1901, the word empire carried a different meaning. Far from being jingoistic and oppressive, for many young Britons the

empire offered the prospect of freedom, of adventure and discovery. There were still parts of the world where the stuffy norms of the post-Victorian era did not apply and where young men (and a few women) could reject their parents' rules. And then there were riches beyond imagination. The problem was, of course that in most of the places the youth of Europe wanted to exercise their freedoms there were already norms in operation, and the riches involved usually belonged to someone else.

Never mind. Colonialism did its thing, and in Africa, the tradition of The Big Man helped in the humiliation. Even now, to get a decision in much of Africa, nothing can happen without the say-so of some key functionary. Often, even a minor government functionary's patronage and approval exceeds that often ascribed to Peter Mandelson. Whole populations would accept that their destinies could be determined by the wishes of a single man, who happened to be called the equivalent of chief.

Thus colonialists, though backed by the gun and the Bible, were able to persuade the major-



Les Ballets Africains, currently at the Hackney Empire, embodies a new African confidence

ity of Africans that their new order was merely an extension of the historic tradition of deference to Big Men.

Inevitably, colonialism's greed killed the goose that laid the golden egg. The crude carve-up of the African map in Benin in 1894 drew a series of borders that artificially split clans, kingdoms and tribes, and set up the tensions we see in Rwanda-Burundi. After independence, the favours granted to Big Men led to the disgrace of Zaïre and Amin's Uganda. And the failure to set up anything resembling a modern state left countries like Mozambique with illiteracy rates, at independence, of more than 90 per cent. How could places with this kind of legacy ever compete?

There is an answer, of course. The Francophone territories such as Ivory Coast, Gabon and Senegal quickly made it clear that though they had cut the formal ties, they intended to stay close to the power of Paris. They benefited hugely in terms of economic stability. In the South, Botswana took a less aggressive line towards the regional power, South Africa, and as a consequence has enjoyed

decades of tranquillity and relative growth. (There is an alternative explanation: the fact that Botswana has always refused to set up a TV station may also have contributed to its stability and high educational standards; the jury's still out).

As a result, some African thinkers are beginning to ask, in whispers, whether colonialism is such a terrible thing. No one wants the Europeans to come back. But with the emergence of a group of less poor nations – you cannot call them rich – the possibility of African colonialism is being talked about. Kenya, Nigeria, Libya (which sees itself as an African power) and South Africa are the senior partners in the Organisation of African Unity. It was no surprise, then, that the OAU backed what was in effect a Nigerian invasion of stricken Sierra Leone. In many ways, this was the sort of decisive action that Europe should have taken in Bosnia. It would have been perfect had the Nigerians been militarily competent. However, they made an effort. The point is that the regional power has taken responsibility for the disaster in West Africa – precisely the sort of responsibility that imperial nations would have exercised in the past.

There is a logic to all this. Africans cannot continue to complain about the legacy of colonialism and the unfairness of the terms of trade with the rest of the world without some internal order. Currently, the Western obsession is something called democracy, though it is not often explained what this means in the African context: most of the nations which complain of Africa's despots are run by people who cannot claim to have attracted a majority of votes in their own elections. Yes, we would all like a universal franchise to operate freely; no, we do not approve of corruption and intimidation. But to achieve the stable environment which these conditions need may take some drastic action. It may be in Africa's own hands, if its people are prepared to accept that for some time at least they may have to surrender some national sovereignty in order to make progress.

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46,142 bargains	
Gilt Index	
174	

The possibility of a deal pushed NatWest up nearly 50p at one time; the shares closed 43.5p higher at 780.5p. Royal Bank of Scotland gained 23p to 624p.

Insurances, awaiting Norwich Union, were in the money. Commercial Union jumped 29p to 701.5p and General Accident 20p to 913.5p. Nikko, the Japanese-owned securities house, believes Norwich will be a buy up to 327p.

It was as if the elements combined to generate heady activity among Footsie constituents. It was a blue chips surge with the rest of the market trailing in its wake.

Cable & Wireless was by far the best-performing blue chip, soaring nearly 15 per cent to 572p on its long-awaited Chinese deal over Hong Kong Telecom. In frantic late-afternoon trading there was a rush

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

British Aerospace climbed a further 41.5p to 1,315p and **National Power** returned to winning ways with a 15p advance to 516.5p.

Bass, the brewing and hotel group, missed the party. It fell 19p to 754p as Merrill Lynch downgraded. This year's figure is thought to have been cut by £6m to £722m and next by £12m to £778m.

And poor old BIK remained the scene of abject depression. It is nearly the case of another day, another low. The shares achieved the dubious distinction of recording the worst Footsie fall, off 5p to 188.5p. The slide has already prompted calls for boardroom

received and it was not in talks which might lead to a bid.

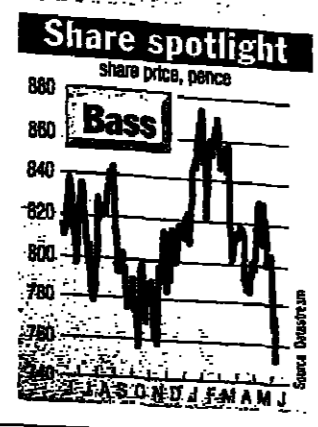
Dragon Oil fell 0.5p to 2.25p. It is raising £62.5m via a rights issue and intends to spend the cash developing interests in the Far East and Turkmenistan.

Bostrom, a vehicle components group, held at 281p as stockbroker Alben E Sharp made enthusiastic noises, forecasting profits up from £5.85m last year to £6.7m this year.

ERA, the loss-making retailer, held at 5.5p. It has said disposals are under consideration. One suggestion is it intends to sell its Beatties model shops to Hamleys: the toy re-

Allders, the department store chain, held at 217p. Stockbroker Greig Middleton believes the shares remain undervalued. It expects profits to hit £19m this year, up from £11.4m, with £22m likely next year.

Old English Pub Co. which has grown from 10 outlets to 86 in four years, has the backing of stockbroker Granville Davies which forecasts profits will hit £7.6m by 2000 against £1.6m last year. It believes OEPC's strength is operating in the rural pub market where major competitors are few. The shares are 237.5p.

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business & city

Business news desk tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098
BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Industry backlash as base rates rise

Michael Harrison

The City greeted yesterday's quarter point rise in interest rates enthusiastically but there was an angry reaction from industry, fearful that it will drive the pound higher and further damage export prospects.

At the end of its first meeting since being given operational independence to set rates, the Bank of England's monetary policy committee

sanctioned an increase from 6.25 per cent to 6.5 per cent.

The rate rise had been expected following comments by the Bank's Governor, Eddie George, earlier this week about the inflationary impact of the building society windfalls. Most City economists are pencilling in at least one more quarter point rate rise this year.

The monetary committee said the increase was needed to achieve continued growth in output and employment at a

sustainable rate. It added that the latest monetary and economic data was consistent with the Bank's last inflation report three weeks ago. This said that notwithstanding the strength of sterling, which was helping to restrain inflation, there was likely to be a need for a "further moderate tightening of policy".

The Bank declined to comment on how the committee had voted and whether it had backed the rate rise unanimously. This will emerge when the minutes of the two-day meeting are published in six weeks' time.

Foreign exchange, equity and bond markets took the rate rise in their stride. The pound firmed initially against the deutschmark, but then lost ground to close 1.5 pence lower in London while gilts rose marginally and the FTSE 100 Index put on 68.8 points to close at 4,645.

Neil Mackinnon of Citibank said: "I certainly think it's the

right move by the Bank and my guess is that there are probably a few more interest rate increases in the pipeline. It is clear that the Bank has decided not to wait for the Chancellor's Budget. They have decided to establish credibility early on."

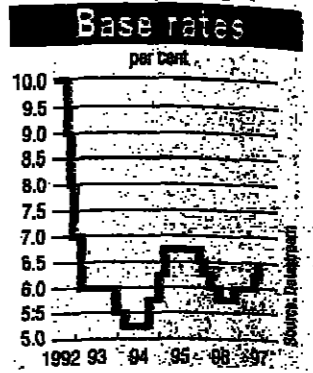
But the reaction from business was less favourable. The Confederation of British Industry's chief economic adviser, Kate Barker, said it was disappointed at the timing of the increase because short-

term inflationary pressures were subdued at present. "We would have preferred interest rates to be left on hold until after the Budget when any change in the fiscal stance could be taken into account," she added.

"We remain concerned about the impact of higher interest rates on sterling at a time when many exporters into Europe are experiencing a sharp squeeze on their profit margins."

The Engineering Employers' Federation also attacked the increase warning that it would damage the UK's manufacturing base which was still suffering fragile demand, particularly overseas because of the strength of the pound.

The Institute of Directors backed the move, however, its head of policy Ruth Lea describing the quarter-point hike as "a step in the right direction to pre-empt inflation and maintain stability".



Ring the change: Lord MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco, on his last day at the 'office', with Terence Leahy, chief executive. Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Lord MacLaurin checks out for last time

Clifford German

There was a distinctly end-of-term feeling at the Seven Kings Suite in the Royal Lancaster Hotel yesterday as Lord MacLaurin bowed out at the Tesco annual general meeting after 38 years with the company, 27 of them on the board. His last appearance as chairman brought to an end an era which began when Tesco's founder Sir Jack Cohen was still in charge of a company which operated under the philosophy of "pile it high, sell it cheap".

Lord MacLaurin's reign, though, has seen that philoso-

hy consigned to history and ended with the company as market leader and a reputation in the City as one of the strongest shares in the retail sector.

Around 300 shareholders gathered to hear him make his valedictory report, and collect a doggy-bag containing a bottle of Australian red wine. He presides over a company whose share price has risen while he has been on the board from 30p in 1970 to yesterday's price of 374p, comfortably outperforming the stock market over the years. But in the circumstances Lord MacLaurin's farewell

statement was a rather low-key affair.

The meeting was all over in 62 minutes. Questions from the floor began and ended with a copious amount of eulogies for Lord MacLaurin. The first question from a small shareholder drew a parallel between his successful time at Tesco and the success of the England cricket team in the First Test against Australia.

They ended with a fulsome tribute from David Rough, the group director of investments at Legal & General, who spoke for the institutional shareholders. "This man made Tesco a

global player in the Premier League", Mr Rough enthused. "He presided over nothing less than a revolution in retailing. He reinvented and rejuvenated the company twice, maybe three times. He masterminded Tesco's move from a succession of small stores into a range of large High Street stores in the seventies, then spearheaded the shift towards edge of town superstores in the Eighties."

Mr Rough also praised the retiring chairman's skills as a member of the Chelsea Youth team in the fifties alongside Jimmy Greaves and the fact that he was captain of the English

Schools cricket XI, before embarking on a career in business instead of sport and he speculated on which career would have been the more financially rewarding nowadays.

Some shareholders pressed him to show more concern with environmental worries and rethink plans for new supermarkets in sensitive parts of the country. Others took time to praise Tesco's efforts to bring commercial choice to their former homelands in Hungary, Poland and the Czech republic.

Lord MacLaurin played them all with equal sureness.

C&W gets 'unique foothold' in China

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

Cable & Wireless yesterday pulled off its long-awaited deal with the Chinese government, selling part of the UK group's lucrative stake in Hong Kong's main telephone network and gaining what it hailed as a unique foothold in China, one of the world's fastest growing communications markets.

After months of talks Dick Brown, C&W chief executive, secured a significant coup by concluding the agreement with the Chinese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, before Britain hands over control of Hong Kong. In the first phase C&W will sell 5.5 per cent of its 59 per cent stake in Hong Kong Telecom to China Telecom, the main state operator. In later stages C&W has conceded that it could reduce its shareholding below 50 per cent towards parity with the Chinese.

The deal would raise HK\$9.177m (£726m) for C&W, valuing Hong Kong shares at HK \$14.25, well below yesterday's closing price of \$18.98. The group defended the low selling price, arguing it was the average trading value in recent months. C&W would use the cash to pay off debt before examining further acquisitions.

The announcement sent C&W's share price soaring by 74.5p to a record high of 573p, adding almost £1.7bn to the group's market value. The previous peak of 546p for C&W shares was last year during the abandoned merger talks with British Telecom.

In return C&W said it had achieved the first significant foothold by an outside telecommunications group into China, a market with huge growth potential where just 7 per cent of customers have phone connections. "China Telecom is growing at the rate of one British Telecom every fifteen months," said Rodney Olsen, the finance director.

Speaking from Peking, Mr Brown said one possibility was that future deals with China Telecom could be done through share swaps. "Certainly this is not the end of announcements. Others will follow but we don't want to be held to a date.... It could lead to a situation where we go below 50 per cent, where we go below a shareholding equal to China." He added that any further share sales would be "mutually agreed" with the Chinese.

It was less clear yesterday what China Telecom had offered to C&W in return. The "unique opportunity" was the

right to become the major investor in China Telecom's subsidiary in Hong Kong, set up to develop a foothold in the colony. Mr Olson said the subsidiary was vehicle to invest in China itself, getting round a ban on direct stakes by foreign companies.

"This establishes the platform for news to come later. It won't come in the weeks ahead, but certainly in the months ahead. There is much to be done and that's in the interests of both of us," Mr Brown said.

Analysts were guarded about the deal last night, pointing to the difficulty of valuing opportunities in China. Mark Lambert, a telecommunications analyst with NatWest Markets, said: "In principle, access to China is fantastic, but we don't know the details of this deal. We don't know what price they are paying, or the size of stake they will get."

The announcement caps almost a year of high profile deals by Mr Brown since he joined C&W in July 1996. His two previous coups were to extricate C&W from an alliance in Germany with the utility group Veba, and the deal to attack the UK phone and cable TV market by merging Mercury with three cable companies to form C&W Communications.

Softer terms expected on Maastricht criteria

John Shepherd

The chances of a single currency beginning on time are continuing to fall although a majority of *The Independent's* nine-strong panel of economists still believes the 1999 start date will be met.

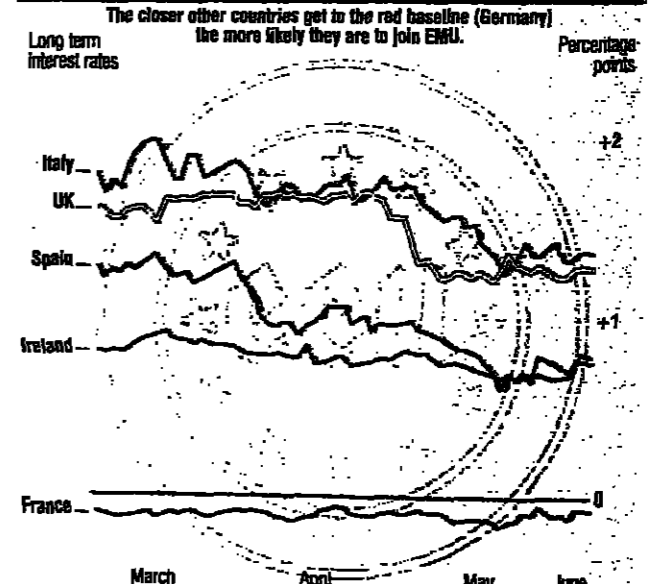
Following a fall last week in the probability of EMU starting on time from 69 per cent to 61.4 per cent, there has been a further drop this week to 58.5 per cent. The probability of a delay has risen sharply from 30.6 per cent to 35.5 per cent.

Many of the panel members believe there is a political will to press ahead with EMU and there will be a less rigid interpretation of the Maastricht criteria which will result in the southern Mediterranean countries, Spain and Italy, being in a broader-based single currency.

Alex Garrard of UBS said: "The recent gold spat in Germany and the outcome of the French elections are likely to lead to softer terms." Along with other members of the panel, he was encouraged by the inclusion of many pro-EMU Europeans in the new French cabinet. "On the whole this leaves us confident EMU will begin on schedule."

One of the main concerns is how the German government, in the words of Robert Prior at James Capel, will "have to balance the books without creative accounting".

Who will be in EMU? The financial markets' view



TOWARDS EMU: If the line moves towards the German base line it means investors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident the currency won't devalue against the Mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into a single currency with Germany in less than a year's time.

AWAY FROM EMU: However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher inflation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the Mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line will move away from the base.

When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

The *Independent* asked analysts from: Nikken Europe, Paine Webber, ABN Amro, JP Morgan, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Salomon Brothers, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, James Capel, UBS what probability they placed on EMU starting on time.

Probability EMU starts on time: 58.5% (61.4% last week)

Probability EMU is delayed: 35.5% (30.6% last week)

Probability EMU never happens: 6% (8% last week)

Ecclestone fuels City fears on F1 flotation

Chris Godsmark

Progress towards the planned £2bn flotation of the Formula One grand prix empire is attracting growing concern in the City after the apparent reluctance of Bernie Ecclestone, owner of the promotional operation, to disclose details of the business.

In an unusual move, Mr Ecclestone is understood to have ordered that circulation of research notes written by the select group of City analysts invited to follow the flotation is restricted to a small number of big institutional investors. It means the first chance to study details of the businesses, to be grouped into a Formula One holding company, will be when the formal prospectus document is published by Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank managing the flotation. In most flotations these research notes are circulated widely, giving an early opportunity to value a company prior to the publication of the prospectus itself.

Separately yesterday Christian Purslow of Salomon Brothers, which is handling the offer, said he could not confirm whether the float would take place at all. "We are just working away on this and I cannot say whether there will or won't be a flotation, though we expect to make an announcement in the near future," Mr Purslow said. The "tentative" timetable agreed with Mr Ecclestone, thought to be to float the business at the British Grand Prix on 13 July, had not changed.

Salomon Brothers have already raised eyebrows in some City circles by effectively excluding analysts from some well-known briefing houses from progress briefings on the flotations. Those analysts invited to demand a more substantial stake in the floated company, Salomon Brothers' most recent plan was to sell around 50 per cent to public, with Mr Ecclestone keeping a 30 per cent stake and 10 per cent each going to the teams and to the sport's governing body.

enues have been closely awaited in the City and in motor racing circles, because most of his deals to sell exclusive television rights for grand prix races have until now been a closely guarded secret. Intensive negotiations have continued between Salomon Brothers, Mr Ecclestone and the Stock Exchange over how much or how little of this information is laid out in the prospectus. At issue is how much each cash television company pays to broadcast races, facts which would be a prerequisite for an accurate valuation of the business before a flotation.

The latest obstacle in the way of the increasingly complex public offering came as the leading teams have continued to demand a more substantial stake in the floated company. Salomon Brothers' most recent plan was to sell around 50 per cent to public, with Mr Ecclestone keeping a 30 per cent stake and 10 per cent each going to the teams and to the sport's governing body.

Goldsborough agrees £76m offer from Bupa

Sameera Ahmad

Goldsborough, which exactly a year ago fought off a hostile takeover bid from Westminster Health Care, yesterday agreed to a £76.7m cash offer from Bupa, the healthcare provider.

The bid values Goldsborough at 175p a share plus a 1.4p interim dividend, and left the group's shares 37 per cent higher at 172.5p. The rise means that Westminster's 9.1 per cent stake in Goldsborough, built at the time of its attempted offer, is now worth £6.9m, almost £2m more than before the Bupa bid. "It's nice that we got our money back," joked Pat Carter, Westminster's chief executive.

Graham Smith, Goldsborough's chief executive, said the offer, which at 176.4p is 30p higher than Westminster's 150p-a-share cash alternative, vindicated his controversial decision to fend off last year's bid. "We always felt that Westminster's price was inadequate," Analysts welcomed the deal and said further consolidation was to come in the nursing

homes sector. Paul Saper, of industry consultants Laing & Buisson, said: "This is not the end of the story. The attitude in this sector is buy anything that moves. Where does it leave Community Hospitals, for instance?"

Bupa, which yesterday bought Goldsborough shares in the market, increasing its stake to 29.3 per cent, is unlikely to be outbid. Peter Jacobs, Bupa's chief executive, also refused suggestions that buying Goldsborough, which adds 32 nursing homes to its own 44 and six hospitals to its 29, might raise monopoly issues because Bupa was both a provider and purchaser of healthcare services. "After this we will still have just 1.2 per cent of the hospital market and there is no geographical overlap in the nursing homes," said Mr Jacobs.

Mr Smith, who recently put half of Goldsborough's nursing homes up for sale, will stay on at Bupa to run its expanded nursing homes business. "It's a bit ironic, given that he has been trying to move out of the business," said Mr Saper.

STOCK MARKETS									
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Yield (%)	Index	Close	Day's change
FTSE 100	4576.20	+19.10	+0.4	4693.90	4056.60	3.59	Nikkei	21000	+100
FTSE 250	4485.90	-1.90	-0.0	4729.40	4462.00	3.85			
FTSE 350	2220.30	+7.30	+0.3	2272.10	2017.90	3.60			
FTSE SmallCap	2277.24	-0.51	-0.0	2374.20	2178.29	3.09			
FTSE All-Share	2181.08	+6.61	+0.3	2230.98	1989.78	3.58			
New York	7322.89	+53.33	+0.7	7383.41	5032.94	1.73			
Tokyo	20488.15	-123.41	-0.6	20611.56	17303.85	0.801			
Hong Kong	14795.52	-36.06	-0.2	14890.90	12055.17	2.891			
Frankfurt	3673.03	+11.19	+0.3	3674.36	2846.77	1.491			

Statistics as of 6 June

INTEREST RATES									
Short sterling*					UK medium gilt				
1 Month	6.44	7.00	7.13	8.05	7.19	8.15	1 Month	6.44	7.00
3 Months	5.59	6.16	6.82	6.86	6.88	7.01	3 Months	5.59	6.16
6 Months	0.50	0.78	2.32	3.12			6 Months	0.50	0.78
1 Year	3.03	3.28	6.83	6.50	6.61		1 Year	3.03	3.28

*Bank of England

CURRENCIES									
£/\$					£/DM				
Yesterday	1.6309	+0.24c	1.5480	1.5480	Yesterday	0.6132	-0.08	0.6458	0.6458
1 Week	1.6325	-0.40c	1.5490	1.5490	1 Week	0.6122	+0.11	0.6456	0.6456
1 Month	2.6197	+0.35p	2.3675	2.3675	1 Month	1.7289	-0.05p	1.5293	1.5293
3 Months	1.6309	+0.24c	1.5480	1.5480	3 Months	1.1575	-0.56p	1.0845	1.0845
6 Months	1.6309	+0.24c	1.5480	1.5480	6 Months	1.1575	-0.56p	1.0845	1.0845

Source: Reuters

BA renews attack on union strike ballot

British Airways last night renewed its attack on the unions over the decision to ballot staff for strike action, calling the decision "bizarre and regrettable".

The airline said that some staff who had been balloted for action in its World cargo division had yesterday endorsed management plans to improve efficiency with the aim of saving £1bn from costs by the end of the decade.

Employees voted in favour last month of the proposals which protect jobs but impose a two-year pay freeze. Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive,

said: "These kind of undertakings will improve processes and bring greater efficiency to our entire operation."

He added that the strike ballot, called by the Transport and General Workers Union, could only jeopardise this and other agreements BA had reached with other staff members.

The strike ballot was called over BA's decision to sell its long-haul catering operation at Heathrow. BA defends the sale arguing that it is the only major carrier in Europe which still has its own catering operation.



Rank reaps £1bn from disposal of Xerox stake

8800	Nov	108.50	Jun	9.70
8000	Mar	112.50	Apr	25.70
7	Vol:	28	Vol:	128
	Com			
Stone	CBOT		Commodity	Settle
		H-L		
84.50		272.25-285.50		272.00
86.00	Jul	287.00-288.75		288.75
9100	Sep	288.25-292.00		292.00
80	Dec			292.25

Jul	Soybean Oil	FL/100kg	106.50
May/Jan	Coconut Oil (F) Stone		648.00
Jun	Sunflower Oil/Stone		unq
Jan/Jul	Refined Olive/100kg		104.50
May/Jan	Groundnut Oil Stone		1005.00

Notes: * = Europe Stock; F = International Futures

sport

Benaud's words of Wisden

James Rampton at Edgbaston meets cricket's icon of the commentary box

Richie Benaud puts down his BBC microphone after a commentary stint and makes a dash for the door of the box. He has an urgent appointment commenting for Australia's Channel Nine, whose studio is sited across a precarious scaffolding walkway spanning the roof of the Edgbaston pavilion. At the door, however, he is waylaid by his fellow commentator Tony Lewis, who hands him a fistful of fan mail. "Thanks, I've got so much time to spare," pants Benaud with a smile before walking the plank to Channel Nine.

The Australian television commentator had occupied an earlier break on Thursday by recording a link for the evening's highlights, before tapping away feverishly at a laptop — he's a one-man publishing industry — and gulping down a lunchtime sandwich (it was 4pm). On Wednesday evening he had managed to squeeze me in for an interview between jetting in from the south of France and a meeting and dinner with his BBC producers.

How does he manage to keep so many cricket balls in the air at the same time? "I just need to write it all down," he laughs. "As long as my eyes stay all right and I can still read, I'll be OK."

Benaud is a man much in demand. But that is only fitting for a commentator acknowledged as the best in the business. He has an enviable economy with words, never using two words when one will do and only speaking if he thinks what he says will actually add something to the pictures — a lesson certain, more exaltable, commentators might heed.

His simplest locutions — "got him" when a wicket falls, or even "morning, everyone" — have become catchphrases. They are parroted by aspiring impressionists and children in school playgrounds across the land. A stall at Edgbaston on Thursday appeared to be doing a roaring trade in Benaud postcards. Unusually for an Australian, he has

taken on the status of a British national institution. That is certainly how his fellow commentators view him. Benaud is spoken of in hushed tones as a "guru" or an "icon" — descriptions, incidentally, that the modest Australian hates. "He's the best," David Gower states simply. "He doesn't waste words. 'Think before you pick up the mike' is one of the little gems of advice that he gives. It's so easy just to rabbit on without knowing where you're going. Richie has the knack of always knowing where he's going."

Lewis is also a founder-member of the Richie Benaud Appreciation Society. "He has great intelligence," Lewis reckons. "I know because I've played under his captaincy for a Commonwealth team. He has a meticulous attention to detail. He is also able to act like a schoolteacher and say, 'What you want to see is this', as if he had a blackboard. He has a wonderful command of words; he always finds the right phrase." (I still recall him describing an Ian Botham hook shot in 1981 as "like swatting a fly"). "It's because he trained as a journalist," Lewis contends. "When he was young, he was a court reporter."

Under duress, the man himself concurs with that assessment. "My strength is knowing what not to say," says Benaud, after some coaxing. "There's so much opportunity to keep talking. If I am able to pull it off, it's because I started off as a journalist in 1956. If your editor says to you, 'I want a story about Fred Smith in 400 words', it's no good putting in 750, however great you think the story is. I was taught then how to condense a story, and I've always found that of great value in television, especially as you're often being counted down to zero. If you mess that up, you put things out for the rest of the day."

Benaud's calm under the fire of a director shouting "3, 2, 1" in



Benaud: 'It's like playing: never a day goes past when I don't pick up something of value' Photograph: David Ashdown

his ear is typical. Edgbaston on Thursday was *en fête*. The fall of every Australian wicket was greeted by Barry Army chants of "you're not singing anymore" at the Antipodean element. The TV gantry, too, was buzzing: everyone from a Blue Peter presenter to Botham — who appeared to have a mobile phone surgically attached to his ear — was swarming around.

Yet throughout the commotion Benaud was supremely unruffled. When late on in the afternoon the camera cut to a phalanx of Aussie fans who

seemed to be trying to beat David Boon's in-flight record for larger consumption, Benaud raised the merest of verbal eyebrows. "They look happy enough," he mused. "Maybe they only came in after the Australian innings." The authentic sound of his master's voice.

In his work, Benaud adheres to Polonius's advice: "To thine own self be true." The secret of good commentary, he observes, "is being yourself. A lot of people ask me, 'Could you give Fred or Charlie or Elizabeth some tips about commentary?', and I al-

ways say no. Everyone should commentate in their own way. I have enormous respect for Dan Maskell, Henry Longhurst and Peter O'Sullivan but, if I were to try to copy them, I'd be gone. I still watch as much television as I can: I'm constantly trying to improve. It's like playing: never a day goes past when I don't pick up something of value."

The man's enthusiasm for a game he has covered for the BBC since 1960 is infectious. "After all these years," says Lewis, with no little awe, "he still finds the tiny details of cricket

fascinating and sees things that no-one else has spotted."

So how on earth does this 66-year-old keep up the keenness of someone half his age? "There's something brilliant every day I watch," he says. "That's why I love it so much. You can have a morning like today when eight wickets fall, and then in the afternoon someone can score a hundred. You'd have to be crazy not to be enthusiastic about it still. What more could you want in life?" With that, Benaud hurries back to his commentary position.

Smith rescues Hampshire and the match

MIKE CAREY

reports from Chesterfield
Derbyshire 523 and 56-0
Hampshire 422-7 dec

As backs-to-the-wall operations go, Hampshire's latest effort was relatively uncomplicated and, indeed, very positive yesterday. They were able to declare at tea to keep the game open, mercifully without the need for connivance. They may also quietly fancy their chances batting last today.

Derbyshire's attacking limitations were unsurprisingly exposed by this pitch and Robin Smith did much as he bailed in making 154 from 215 balls. Apart from the whole-hearted Paul Aldred, Derbyshire often bowled without too much conviction and they know now, if they did not before, that Smith is probably the fiercest square cutter in the game.

Not as ever, the shape of the day might have been different, even on such a mild pitch. The follow-on figure of 374 was probably still uppermost in Hampshire minds when Smith, at 51, cut Vince Clarke through the upstretched fingertips of Chris Adams at slip.

It was a rare moment when Clarke extracted a little extra

bounce to add to his repertoire of long hops and full-tosses and Smith did not look vulnerable again until, having reached three figures from 156 balls, he failed to get over another vigorous cut against Aldred and the ball almost carried to slip.

Before and after those episodes, Smith was so sublime that Hampshire were never under pressure. Kevan James helped him to add 109 for the third wicket before an unlucky meeting a ball which, out of general context, stopped and lifted to give Aldred a straightforward return catch.

Encouraged by that, Aldred found some testing bounce and late movement that troubled even Smith, but he dealt sagaciously with the plentiful supply of dross from other sources. He had hit 23 fours and two sixes when Hampshire were not only back in the game but Derbyshire had been given cause to reflect on the ill-balanced nature of their attack.

Aldred earned further rewards when he had Will Kendall caught behind and John Stephenson walked into a palpable lbw decision. After Adrian Aymes had been caught at slip cutting at Clarke, Hampshire were happy to declare 101 behind, but first bad light, then rain, interrupted Derbyshire's reply.

Surrey coping without top cats

DAVID LLEWELLYN

reports from The Oval
Essex 347 and 30-2
Surrey 280 and 70-2

There was an expectation that with the big wheels — Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe, Mark Butcher and Adam Hogg — off their wagon and on England duty, Surrey would struggle. It has not been far from the truth. But places are up for grabs and while the top cats are away the rest must play, and play well.

In the main that is what they have done, though Essex have not made things easy. By the time the Essex second innings had been wrapped up by the Surrey attack — shorn of the services of the teenage fast bowler Alex Tudor (side strain) — the home side faced a formidable target of 370 to win off a minimum of 125 overs.

The previous highest fourth innings total Surrey have successfully chased against Essex was 340 — in 1947, when they triumphed by two wickets. Before Surrey had knocked a single off that total, they lost the opener Gregor Kennis. The catch he presented to Darren Robinson at third slip was a marginal improvement on his first innings effort. Then he did

not get quite so much bat on the ball and fell to a catch at second slip. It has been an unhappy match for the Yorkshire-born Kennis, who has been in stunning form for the Second XI.

At least Darren Bicknell appeared to have recovered his touch for Surrey. He and Jason Ratcliffe shared in a useful second-wicket stand that raised Surrey hopes, but it has to be remembered their first innings hero Alistair Brown has a hand injury. Though Brown could bat at a pitch, he is finding it difficult to grip the bat.

The substance of the Essex innings was provided by Paul Grayson. His third hundred for Essex and his fourth in all was chanceless. He coped well with Ian Salisbury's leg spin until the one that dismissed him, when he played back and was caught behind. By then he had batted for more than three hours, faced 150 balls — sending 15 of them to the boundary — and had made a game of it.

Graham Cooch was another of Salisbury's victims but not before he had made 56, his highest score of the season. It may only have been his first half-century of the summer but it was the 344th time he has passed 50 in his first-class career of 25 years. This big wheel just rolls on and on.

Parsons the inspiration

ROUND-UP

Leicestershire yesterday fought like tigers, or rather the champions that they are, to restore some equilibrium to their Championship match against Middlesex at Lord's.

Middlesex appeared to be taking command as they resumed on 298 for 4 in their first innings, already 18 ahead, but Gordon Parsons was inspired form. He claimed their last four wickets for five runs in 26 balls to finish with 4 for 22 and restrict Middlesex to 395, a lead of 115.

Darren Maddy, who eventually fell to Phil Tufnell for 103, and Vince Wells swept that lead away with an opening stand of 173.

David Hemp hit an unbeat-

en 113 as Warwickshire were struggling to set Kent a target at Tunbridge Wells.

They reached 237 for 6 by the close, a lead of 172 after a career-best 59 not out by Julian Thompson had helped Kent reach 379 in their first innings to lead by 65. Thompson put together a ninth-wicket stand of 109 with Ben Phillips, who scored 41.

Phillips then removed Nick Knight, Neil Smith and Trevor Penny, but Hemp stood firm to keep the contest finely balanced.

At Chester-le-Street, Sussex fought back against Durham, led by Neil Taylor, who hit 109, and Bill Athey, who scored 50. Their third-wicket stand of 142 helped Sussex to pile on 243 for 8 in their second innings, a lead of 278 after Durham had made 338.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

British Assurance County Championship

Third day of four: 11.0 today

Derbyshire v Hampshire
CHESTERFIELD: Derbyshire (8pts), with all second-innings wickets standing, are 157 runs ahead of Hampshire (7).

Hampshire won toss

DERBYSHIRE — First innings 523 (AS Rollins 210, P Aldred 83, CJ Adams 78; Renshaw 5-110).

HAMPSHIRE — First innings (overnight: 186 for 2)

KJ James c and b Aldred 25

RJ Smith c Adams b Dean 154

WJ Smeeth c KJ James b Aldred 25

*PJ Stephenson lbw b Aldred 31

KA Aymes c Adams b Clarke 20

SD Udd not out 23

AJ Mascarenhas not out 4

Extras (lb, nb) 7

Total (for 7 dec, 221 overs) 422

Fall (over 7 dec, 221 overs): 3-220, 4-258, 5-366, 6-382, 7-415.

Did not bat: S Renshaw, J N B Bovi.

Scores at 120 overs: 418 for 5.

Bowling: DeFreitas 2-4-76-0; Harris 28-5-95-2; Dean 18-2-86-1; Clarke 26-5-100-1; Jones 2-2-0-0; Aldred 18-5-40-3; Caesar 6-0-22-0.

DERBYSHIRE — Second innings

KJ James not out 28

AS Rollins not out 22

Extras (w, nb) 6

Total (for 0, 12 overs) 58

Fall (over 0, 12 overs): 1-58

Kent v Warwickshire

TUNBRIDGE WELLS: Warwickshire (8pts), with four second-innings wickets standing, are 172 runs ahead of Kent (7).

Warwickshire won toss

WARWICKSHIRE — First innings 314 (T L Penney 84; J B D Thompson 5-89).

KENT — First innings (overnight: 319 for 8)

J B D Thompson not out 59

PJ Phillips c and b Welch 41

MJ McClellan c Penney b Smith 15

Extras (lb, nb, w, no) 41

Total (133.2 overs) 379

Fall (over 5-50): 1-352

Scores at 120 overs: 339 for 8.

Bowling: Welch 38-8-136-1; Smith 19-7-54-3; Smith 30-6-88-2; Brown 25-5-73-3; Edmond 38-7-40-1.

To bat: C J Adams, D M Jones, M E Caesar, V P Clarke, M K Walker, P Aldred, P A J M Smith b Phillips 14

Bowling: Renshaw 7-1-22-0; Stephenson 6-0-34-0.

Umpires: G Sharp and K E Palmer

Durham v Sussex

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Sussex (8pts), with two second-innings wickets standing, are 273 runs ahead of Durham (7).

Sussex won toss

SUSSEX — First innings 373 (N Latham 53, P Moores 60; S J E Brown 5-115).

DURHAM — First innings (overnight: 309 for 8)

S J E Brown c Robinson b Khan 24

A Walker not out 41

Extras (lb, nb, w, no) 21

Total (198 overs) 358

Bowling: Jones 28-7-97-2; Dukes 27-5-90-4; Robinson 24-4-63-3; Khan 20-3-54-1; K Newell 9-1-34-0.

Umpires: B Dudson and R Julian.

Middlesex v Leicestershire

LORD'S: Leicestershire (8pts), with seven second-innings wickets standing, are 121 runs ahead of Middlesex (8).

Leicestershire won toss

LEICESTERSHIRE — First innings 280 (J J Whiteley 110; A R C Fraser 6-77).

MIDDLESEX — First innings (overnight: 298 for 4)

J C Pooley c and b Benson 56

N R Brown lbw b Pooley 5

S P Mollart lbw b Benson 36

R L Johnson b Parsons 13

J P Harris b Parsons 10

A R C Fraser not out 2

P C R Turner c and b Parsons 4

Extras (lb, nb, w, no) 43

Total (for 8, 78 overs) 243

Fall (over 8, 78 overs): 1-13, 2-3-161, 4-178, 5-206, 6-206, 7-208, 8-225.

To bat: M A Robinson.

Bowling: Brown 20-2-55-3; Bates 18-2-61-1; Walker 24-6-44-4; Foster 8-1-43-0; Suggs 8-3-19-0.

Umpires: J C Balderson and D J Constant.

Kent v Warwickshire

TUNBRIDGE WELLS: Warwickshire (8pts), with four second-innings wickets standing, are 172 runs ahead of Kent (7).

Warwickshire won toss

WARWICKSHIRE — First innings 314 (T L Penney 84; J B D Thompson 5-89).

KENT — First innings (overnight: 319 for 8)

J B D Thompson not out 59

PJ Phillips c and b Welch 41

MJ McClellan c Penney b Smith 15

Extras (lb, nb, w, no) 41

Total (133.2 overs) 379

Fall (over 5-50): 1-352

Scores at 120 overs: 339 for 8.

Bowling: Welch 38-8-136-1; Smith 19-7-54-3; Smith 30-6-88-2; Brown 25-5-73-3; Edmond 38-7-40-1.

WARWICKSHIRE — Second innings

*N V Knight c Fulton b Phillips 20

M M Smith b Phillips 14

D L Hemp not out 113

T L Penney c Strang b Phillips 19

D P Oyster c Marsh b Strang 19

D R Brown c Udd b Thompson 0

A J Moles c Fulton b Fleming 12

G Wilson not out 9

Extras (lb, nb, w, no) 25

Total (for 6, 78 overs) 237

Fall (over 6, 78 overs): 1-2-24, 2-100, 3-118, 4-175, 5-176, 6-212.

To bat: M D Edmond, YF Frost, G C Small.

Bowling: Thompson 16-5-28-1; Phillips 12-2-48-3; Fleming 18-6-20-1; Strang 25-7-90-1; Udd 2-1-6-0.

Umpires: B Dudson and R Julian.

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J C Pooley c and b Benson 56

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A R C Fraser not out 2

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE — Second innings

R R Montgomerie c Archer b Asle 14

M M Smith b Phillips 14

*R J Bailey not out 78

K M Curran c Asle b Bowen 23

T C Walton c Taylor b Bowen 42

D J G Sales b Bowen 0

sport

Scholes doubt for England

Football

GLENN MOORE reports from La Baule

The extent to which Glenn Hoddle's England have become an international team of genuine quality will be thoroughly tested in Montpellier tonight.

Italy may, or may not, have been in the mood on Wednesday night in Nantes, but there will be no questioning France's commitment. As hosts for next summer's World Cup, *Le Tournoi de France* is the nearest thing they are going to have to competitive football.

The match is an attractive one, not least because Glenn Hoddle is hoping to pair Alan Shearer and Paul Scholes in attack. While Shearer's partnership with Teddy Sheringham remains the first choice, Sheringham is 31, five years older than Shearer and nine years senior to Scholes, and will not be a key figure for too many more years.

The move is dependent on Scholes recovering from a tight hamstring which forced him to curtail training yesterday afternoon. It was, said Hoddle, probably a reaction to the effort that he had put in against Italy.

"I want to play him to see if he can reproduce that performance," the England coach said. "It will tell me more about his temperament under pressure. Once you have set a standard like that it is hard to maintain it. If he can I might think we have really found a player."

Rob Lee will also need a fitness test on a sore foot, but Phil Gascoigne will play. Martin Keown is ruled out with an arm injury and Paul Ince could be rested. Hoddle admitted he had left Shearer out on Wednesday as he did not want the Italians to get another look at him. "They have not seen the real Alan Shearer," he said. Shearer was carrying a groin injury when he played against Italy in February.

Shearer was very impressed with Scholes' full debut. "If it was not for Eric Cantona, he would be a regular for Manchester United and England by now," he said.

France have made eight changes from the side who drew 1-1 with Brazil on Tuesday more by application than inspiration. Among those left out is Zinedine Zidane, who looked jaded after a long season with Juventus. He was similarly tired and ineffectual during *Euro '96* and his condition is a concern to the French as he is supposed to provide the midfield lock-picking which is so crucial at international level. This will especially apply to France next summer as they are the home team and will be under pressure to push forward.

This could help England's recent adoption of a counter-attacking style, though the French defence, marshalled by the superb Laurent Blanc, will be formidable. They have lost once in 34 matches, but need to win more often, to that end Youri Djorkaeff has been handed Zidane's playmaking role and Christophe Dugarry and Nicolas Ouedec are given a chance to end France's scoring problem.

England are based on the Atlantic coast in La Baule 520 miles from tonight's game in Montpellier. This is not the result of an FA blunder, but part of Hoddle's long-term planning. His intention is to recreate Bisham Abbey, England's Berkshire training base, in France next year.

To this end England are considering basing themselves here, an hour's drive from Nantes, and fly in and out for matches. For evening games they would fly in on the day and sleep in the afternoon. Hoddle said he often did this when he was playing for Monaco and would be asking the squad for their reaction.

ENGLAND (possession): Seaman; G. Neville, Southgate, Campbell, Beckford, Lee or Le Tissier, Barry, Gascoigne, P. Neville, Scholes or Shefferson, Shearer.

FRANCE: Barthez; Thuram, Blanc, N'Gotty, L. Blanc, Deschamps, Vieira, Koller, Djorkaeff, Dugarry, Ouedec.

Barcelona look to Fifa

Barcelona have made a last-ditch effort to stop Ronaldo moving to Internazionale by invoking a Fifa rule that would prevent his unregulated transfer to a non-Spanish club.

Inter had looked likely to pay the 4.5bn pesetas (£19m) stipulated in Ronaldo's contract as the price needed to release him from his obligations with Barcelona. It is normal practice in Spain for players to sign contracts including such withdrawal clauses, but the world governing body recognises such contracts only for transfers within Spain.

The Inter president, Massimo Moratti, said: "We are sur-

prised. I have put the matter in the hands of legal lawyers in Italy and Spain. I hope to understand the situation better."

Ottmar Hitzfeld has resigned as coach of Borussia Dortmund, just over a week after the club won the European Cup. Hitzfeld is to take on the role of sports director at the club.

Geoff Chapple yesterday ended his 13-year management reign at Woking by leaving the GM Vauxhall Conference club to take charge of the Ics League Premier Division team, Kingstonian. Chapple has steered the Surrey side to three FA Trophy wins in the last four years.



Christophe Dugarry of Milan, Patrick Vieira of Arsenal and Youri Djorkaeff of Internazionale, three recent exports from the French 'football factory'

Experts in the export business

England are not only playing a country in Montpellier today, they are taking on a footballer factory. In the last few years France has become one of the biggest producers of footballers in Europe, surpassed only by the countries of the former Yugoslavia, traditionally the continent's leading exporter.

Just this week Arsenal signed two more French players while, in Italy, Alain Boghossian moved from Napoli to Sampdoria on a £300,000-a-year contract. None of these players are even in the French *Tournoi de France* squad, though Boghossian did join two players who are: Christian Karembeu and Pierre Leigle.

They are two of nine Italian-based players in the French squad. With others in England (Frank Leboeuf and Patrick Vieira), Spain and Germany, only seven of the 23 still play in France and several of those, like Bruno N'Gotty and Robert Pires, are constantly linked with moves away.

Despite these exports French clubs have become successful in Europe after many years of failure. Marseille's 1993 Champions Cup success - France's first European trophy - may be clouded by bribery allegations but Paris St-Germain have reached the last two Cup-Winners Cup finals, winning in 1996. That year Bordeaux reached the UEFA Cup final, while Monaco and Auxerre have also made an impact. All of this has been achieved with very few foreign players.

French players are attractive

to other countries because they combine technical ability with physical resilience, a combination most evident, to differing degrees, in Didier Deschamps of Juventus.

The emergence of players like Deschamps, his team-mate Zinedine Zidane, and others like Marcel Desailly, Lilian Thuram and Karembeu is one reason why the Football Association's Charter for Quality, the new coaching initiative, draws heavily from the French example.

This may seem odd when today's squads run out. While England can offer Phil and Gary Neville, David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Sol Campbell, only Vieira is under 23 in the French squad. However, that party, which also has only two players over 29, has been together over a period of several years with the express aim of peaking for next year's World Cup which the French host.

Below this group the production line shows no sign of faltering. France are in the World Under-20 Championships in Malaysia later this month and on Thursday won the prestigious Toulon tournament, beating Portugal - whose own youth system is renowned - in the final.

England, though they are also in Malaysia, are heavily reliant on the success of a few outstanding youth development schemes, primarily at Manchester United, and, more latterly, the FA's own national school. The shake-up proposed

Glenn Moore on the French youth programme that is the envy of Europe

by Howard Wilkinson is long overdue - the French began reviewing their system more than 20 years ago.

"We changed our methods in 1974 and it is paying off today," said Arsène Wenger, Arsenal's French manager. "We have a professional detection of young players and work with them from very early on. From 14 to 20 they train every day. The quality of coaching is very good."

There have been two strands to their progress. The first came from the clubs which realised they did not have the resources to compete with the better-supported and sponsored giants of western Europe and thus began breeding players instead of buying them. This trend was led by clubs like Nantes (who produced Deschamps, Desailly and Karembeu) and Guy Roux's Auxerre, who have gone from a park club to the Champions League. The wealthier French clubs, like PSG and Marseille, were slow to catch on but now have similar schemes.

Talented young players are brought to the club, housed and schooled. Coaches have to be far better qualified than in the UK and have much greater security of tenure - in England a change of manager often means a new youth coach. Clubs like

Arsenal and Crystal Palace are trying to change that by making independent appointments.

France went on to win the 1984 European Championship, but when they failed to qualify for the 1990 World Cup in neighbouring Italy it was decided more needed to be done.

Gérard Houllier was appointed Technical Director and he set up a national coaching network with schools of excellence, developed the fledgling national coaching centre and football institute at Clairefontaine, and invested heavily in the national youth teams. It is elements of this system the FA are seeking to copy.

However, success has brought its problems. The steady exodus of players may be good for the national team, which benefits from their experience, but it is devaluing the national league, leaving it even more vulnerable to depredations.

Alarmingly, French players are now being poached as teenagers, with Arsenal's controversial acquisition of Nicolas Anelka not an isolated case. Juventus have recently lured an 18-year-old defender, Salio Lassissi, away from Rennes and a 17-year-old goalkeeper, Sebastien Frey, from Cannes.

Then there is the nature of the players being produced. They are very good technically but some regard them as being over-coached and lacking the imagination of predecessors such as Michel Platini and Alain Giresse. Zidane is billed

as the new Platini but is yet to perform well for the national side in major competition.

Another concern is for the players who do not make it. The non-footballing education that young players receive in their youth development is, said one French journalist, "good only for a weak job. They end up playing part-time with a job being found by the chairman or sponsor but, at 30, it's over. For every 10 or 20 players who come through, 80 disappear."

Youth development is not a precise science. Paul Rideout was a sensation at 15 but never went on to play for England. Shaun Brooks, son of the former international Johnny, was tipped for great things but spent most of his career at Orient. By contrast, the young Ian Wright was ignored by the professional game and learned his trade at parks level.

The French have their own examples. Ibrahim Ba, the exciting 23-year-old right-winger, had four clubs before he was 18, with PSG among the clubs which rejected him. Juventus-bound Lassissi was turned away by Nantes.

But while some will always disappoint, or emerge late, a well-structured and resourced system can only be of benefit. The English FA is finally recognising this but it will take time to catch up. At present the French are pulling further away - in January they launched a scheme in harness with the government to improve school football for eight-year-olds.

Scotland face trip into the unknown

PHIL SHAW

Scotland, having taken the balance of points from Austria and come out even with Sweden, must guard against their almost traditional generosity to supposedly weaker countries when the World Cup campaign resumes against Belarus in Minsk tomorrow.

If February's draw with Estonia in Monaco did not quite rank alongside Costa Rica and Iran in the litany of largesse, its impact on Scottish hopes of advancing from Group Four to France might have to be reassessed should Craig Brown's under-strength team fail to beat Belarus. Victory in their last three Group Four games - the Scots conclude at home to Latvia and Belarus - would guarantee at least second place and a strong chance of qualification. Anything less and Scotland will be reduced to relying on the three former Soviet republics to take points off Austria and Sweden.

The match represents a trip into the unknown in more respects than Brown would have liked. Their inaugural meeting with Belarus (they are the first British side to play there) also finds him forced into major adjustments to his tried and trusted defence.

In the absence of the two Collins, Hendry and Calderwood, who are both recovering from surgery, the Scotland manager used the friendlies against Wales and Malta to evaluate the merits of Christian Dailly, David Weir and Brian McAllister. While the latter pair were unconvincing, Brown has little option other than to use one with Tom Boyd and Dailly in a back three.

Doubts over that department are counter-balanced by Paul Lambert's return after his European Cup heroics. The Dortmund player may be deemed to pick up Valentin Belkevich, whom Brown likens to Georgi Kinkladze. Belkevich, he warned typically, puts a "Brazilian bend" on his free-kicks.

The injury to John Collins in Malta provides a further dilemma. Darren Jackson could replace him in midfield, letting Gordon Durie in up front, though that would mean splitting up the burgeoning partnership between Jackson and Kevin Gallacher.

"We'll go out with a positive attitude and I'm asking the players for one final effort at the end of a long, hard season," Brown said. "I rate Belarus on a par with Latvia, who we did well to beat in Riga. But if we could get a goal I'd hope some of their players might lose interest, with us being top and them bottom."

Two years ago today, Belarus beat the Netherlands 1-0 in a European Championship qualifier. Despite their inability to build on that triumph, Brown is only too aware that two-thirds of their squad play with leading Moscow clubs and will be underestimated at Scotland's peril.

SCOTLAND: Brown; 3-4-3: Leighton (Gibson); Dailly (Duffy), Weir (Hendry), Boyd (Cuthbert); Lambert (Dorment), Murray (Cuthbert), Jackson (Henderson), G. McAllister (Coveney), T. McAllister (Cuthbert), Gallacher (Blackburn), Durie (Rangers).

Brisbane win battle of the Broncos

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Brisbane drew first blood for Australia in the Battle of the Broncos after the World Club Championship yesterday morning, but London gave them a scare before running out of steam to lose 42-22.

The British side recovered from an early 13-point deficit, with tries by Andrew Duncan, Robbie Beazley and two - setting a new club scoring record - from Scott Roskell. But then they lost Shaun Edwards, who had inspired their fightback after coming on as a first-half substitute, with a hamstring injury.

Brisbane, league leaders in Australia, immediately recaptured the lead through Darren Lockyer, who also kicked seven from seven, and ran away with it in the last quarter, as the long journey and a heavy penalty went caught up with London.

The North Queensland Cowboys captain, Ian Roberts, missed today's match against Leeds with a knee injury, but their Test hooker, Steve Walters, is fit to face a full strength Headingley side.

Salford go into their game in Adelaide tomorrow under the shadow cast by the life ban on their former captain, Ian Bleasdale, for assaulting a touch-judge. "They will be shocked at

the severity of the sentence, because Ian is a highly-respected team-mate to all of them," the club's chairman, John Wilkinson, said. "I hope they will be professional enough not to be affected by it."

Bleasdale, who has an excellent disciplinary record over his long career, is taking the weekend to decide whether to lodge an appeal.

Also in Australia tomorrow, Halifax face a formidable task against Canberra Raiders, while in Europe Warrington, Castleford and Paris all open up with home fixtures.

Warrington have Sale's Finlay back from suspension on the wing and - importantly - Paul

Sculthorpe fit again after a chest injury to face the highly-fancied Cronulla Sharks.

Castleford, bottom of the league in Europe, switch Adrian Vowles back to his usual position of stand-off in place of the injured Graham Steadman, while Paris face an in-form Hunter Mariners, who beat Brisbane last week.

England and Wales will come together as Great Britain for the 1998 World Cup, which will be staged in three countries in the Southern Hemisphere. Papua New Guinea will stage World Cup matches for the first time, the International Board decided at its meeting in Paris yesterday. Twelve teams, including for

the first time the New Zealand Maoris, will be split into four pools, two in Australia and one each in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea when the competition is held in the autumn of next year.

The chairman of the Maori Rugby League, John Tamihore, said: "This is a wonderful day in the history of both the Maori nation and the code of rugby league in New Zealand. We are proud and delighted to receive the invitation and we look forward immensely to the challenge. We clearly support our sovereign body, the New Zealand Rugby League, but we hope to represent the Maori nation with pride."

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

■ If anyone slugs off after that, they need beheading. Darren Gough, on England's memorable first day of the Ashes.

■ Where's the nearest classical music shop? I need some soothing music. Geoff Marsh, Australia's coach.

■ The boulevard of dreams is still alive. Jonathan Pearce, CS commentator, after England's second goal against Poland.

■ It was an injury collected in armed combat. Glenn Hoddle, England coach, on the gashed calf suffered by Paul Gascoigne.

■ Even in the tunnel I looked at them and knew they were in for a kicking. Paul Ince, of England, on the Poles.

■ What I enjoyed was the other players' faces. Their eyes popped because they could not believe it. Roberto Carlos after his banana-free kick for Brazil in the Tournoi de France.

■ It will be different in Rome, there will be 80,000 screaming Italians for a start. Glenn Hoddle, England coach, after England's second win over Italy.

■ He didn't pull up. He's a coward. Donovan Bailey on Michael Johnson, after the 150m head-to-head in Toronto.

■ I'm not Mother Teresa. I'm not here to do charity work for anybody. Marc Rosset, Swiss tennis player, asked if he felt sympathy for his fellow French Open competitors on a windy day.

■ Their remarkable successes over the last 12 months lend force to the argument that the city is now the sporting capital of England. Tony Banks, Sports Minister, pays tribute to the city of Leicester.

Watson out of sight

Golf

ANDY FARRELL reports from Royal St George's

Better men than Craig Watson have driven out of bounds on the 14th hole here but, despite doing it twice in his semi-final yesterday, the 31-year-old Scot progressed to today's 36-hole final of the Amateur Championship.

Bernhard Langer, that most methodical of strategists, patiently explained why he hit an iron off the 14th tee for three days when the Open Championship visited Sandwich in 1993. On the final day Langer took a driver, sliced it out of bounds and lost his chance of catching Greg Norman.

Watson, who works in his family's lighting shop in Falkirk when not playing golf, could have had his hopes extinguished when he lost two balls on the adjoining Prince's course to go one-down to Bath's Colin Edwards.

Despite the greatness of the prize - the Amateur champion is annually invited to the US Masters - the Scottish international maintained his usual phlegmatic air. "I was beginning to get excited but the 14th kept that in check," he said.

Having chipped in at the ninth to start a run of three holes won, Watson, who turned to a long-handled putter two weeks ago, got up and down at the 15th to square the match. He halved the next from a bunker when his par-putt did a 360-degree spin before drop-

ping in, and then won the 17th after Edwards drove into a bunker. Edwards' putt at the last to continue the game only just missed before Watson holed from three feet for the victory.

It was the second time in the day Edwards had faced Barclay Howard, who caddied for Watson. Edwards, who has 52 caps for England, had beaten the Walker Cup man at the last in the quarter-finals after making "one of the best swings of my life" at the 18th hole. Edwards hit a five-iron to four feet while Watson slipped down into Duncan's Hollow.

Watson will today face the South African Trevor Immelman, who will be attempting to become the first overseas winner for seven years and the youngest champion, beating the record of his countryman Bobby Cole, who was 18 when he won in 1966. Immelman, the only winner of his national junior and senior Amateur titles in the same year, won the battle of the 17-year-olds when he recovered from being three down with eight to play against West Herts' David Griffiths to win by one hole.

Nick Price and Greg Norman share the lead after the opening round of the Kemper Open in Potomac, Maryland. Price, displaying ominously good form before next week's US Open, parred every hole on the front nine yesterday then stormed home with five back-nine birdies to join his friend and rival Norman at five-under-par 66 at the Avenel TPC course.

Motorcycling

Alex Criville upstaged his Honda team-mate, Michael Doohan, in yesterday's opening practice session for the French Grand Prix at Le Castellet.

The Spaniard was fastest on the 2.35-mile track in 1m 21.45sec. Doohan, the reigning world champion and world championship leader, was second in 1m 21.737. "I've beaten him once this season in the Spanish Grand Prix," Criville said. "I know I can do it again."

Italy's Doriani Romboni, on an Aprilia, clocked the third fastest time of 1:21.916.

On the Isle of Man, the Ulsterman Philip McCallen charged to a winning double on the final day of the 90th Anniversary TT races. The 33-year-old Portadown racer comfortably won the Production race and then took the festival's six-lap Senior race.

The Production race was cut to two laps because of uncertain weather, but McCallen overcame the challenge of a tricky course with a mixture of damp and dry sections. He rode a calculated, cautious race, heading off the early challenge of Ducati's Ian Simpson to secure Honda's 90th success on the Island as he rode home.

"It was really great to get out there and win again," said McCallen, who crashed at high speed during Monday's 250cc race. "I had a fine physiotherapist working on me. I took it easy from the first half-lap, then upped the pace, but I was pretty careful throughout. There are some awkward damp patches around the course."

McCallen's victory avenged his defeat in Wednesday's junior race by Scotland's Ian Simpson. The Dalbeattie rider on a Ducati had to be content with second place, ahead of Preston's Simon Beck.

There was better to come in the Senior race, with McCallen,

despite always holding the upper hand, locked in a fierce duel with Glaswegian Jim Moodie aboard the V-Twin 500cc Honda Grand Prix bike.

Windsor's Bob Jackson threatened an upset when leading after two laps as he adopted a one-stop refuelling strategy - all the other riders pitted twice. However, McCallen comfortably headed him off and the Kawasaki rider finished an eventual third.

"It was an enjoyable, perfect end to the week - I rode carefully, concentrating hard all of the time, and everything worked perfectly," said McCallen after his victory by 8.7sec over

Moodie. It was McCallen's third win of the week, and his 11th in total on the Island.

McCallen, 29, is a Castellet, France, resident. He is a former 125cc, 250cc and 500cc world champion. He has won 11 TT races, including the 1996 Senior TT. He is currently ranked 11th in the world. He is a former 125cc, 250cc and 500cc world champion. He has won 11 TT races, including the 1996 Senior TT. He is currently ranked 11th in the world.

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Fallon's day in the field of Reams

GREG WOOD
reports from Epsom

As anyone who has just backed a winning outsider will tell you, horses have no idea of their starting price, and neither, as Reams Of Verse ably demonstrated in the Oaks here yesterday, do they take much notice of their family tree. Before the race, there were many doubts about whether the filly's stamina would stretch to 12 gruelling furlongs around Epsom Downs, but her irresistible surge well inside the final furlong carried Reams Of Verse past Gazelle Royale and into the front rank of middle-distance runners in the latest Classic generation.

That she did so was thanks mainly to the assurance under pressure of Kieren Fallon, her jockey, who was clearly going best of all as they swung through Tattenham Corner, but found his most obvious route to the front blocked by, ironically, Michael Kinane and Reams Of Verse's stablemate, Yashmak, with two furlongs to run. Fallon kept his mount balanced and running — which is not easy on the giddy camber of Epsom's home straight — before pulling wide of Gazelle Royale and finding the last, crucial effort which gave Henry Cecil his fifth Oaks winner in the last 13 years.

This, of course, was the Classic winner which Fallon had not expected to be riding, following a 10-day riding ban imposed by stewards in Italy which, fortunately, he persuaded them to defer until after Royal Ascot. All in all, things could hardly be going better for the Irishman, who has now won two of the three English Classics run so far this season, and who will attempt to make it three of four on Symonds Lane, a 20-1 chance, in the Derby this afternoon.

"Funnily enough, I didn't worry about finding trouble," Fallon said. "She has a very quick turn of foot and, more than anything, it helped me, otherwise I probably would have kicked sooner than I wanted. It turned out well."

Cecil's recent strike-rate in the Oaks may be better than in three, but for Khalid Abdullah, Reams Of Verse's owner, this was a first success in the race. Abdullah, who has now won four of the five English Classics,

is clearly a slightly difficult man to the trainer after yesterday's race was "now I want to win the 1,000 Guineas". As long as he keeps sending horses to Warren Place, it is, you suspect, simply a matter of time.

Cecil, for one, is taking the request seriously. "She has to race very highly among my other Oaks winners. She didn't get a very good run but she got out of trouble and won very well in the end. The Prince has always said he would love to win the Oaks, but having won, he turned to me and said he'd never want to win the 1,000 Guineas so we are back where we started."

Reams Of Verse's victory capped an excellent start for the punters on one of the most important weekends of the season, and there was earlier encouragement for those who will play up their winnings on Entrepreneur this afternoon when Michael Stoute, his trainer, took the Coronation Cup with Singpiel.

Though he has spent much of his recent career racing abroad, Singpiel has done so with such conspicuous success that he is a firm favourite with British racegoers. He was applauded all the way from the two-furlong pole as he galloped away from Dushyantor to record his first Group One success on home soil, and improve his position as the leading money-earner in European racing history still further.

"Racing needs heroes and champions and he's a champion," Frankie Dettori, his jockey, said. "It's very exciting to ride a horse like that, it gives me goose-pimples every time."

Sheikh Mohammed, Singpiel's owner, has now seen his colours led into the Epsom winner's enclosure after eight Group One races, but the Derby, the one he covets above all, continues to elude him. If the oversight annoys him, he hides it well, however, and Singpiel is clearly a particular favourite. "He has an Arabic look about his face, and he is very versatile," the Sheikh said. "He is much stronger this year, and now he will go and take on the best horses in Europe."

That will include, perhaps, Reams Of Verse, and today's Derby winner. The season is only just beginning.

Royal ban for Dettori

Frankie Dettori will miss the final day of Royal Ascot after he picked up a two-day ban at Epsom yesterday.

He was ruled out on 16 & 20 June for his riding of Fatefully in the Vodafone Viretess Stakes. Fatefully finished third behind Samara but was demoted to fourth after an inquiry found him guilty of careless riding.

Because he was given the minimum sentence, Dettori is free to ride on days when there is a Group One race, as there is on the first three days of Royal Ascot.

But by missing the Friday of the meeting he is ruled out of the Hardwicke Stakes, King's Stand Stakes, Wokingham Handicap and King Edward VII Stakes.

Dettori said: "I don't believe I rode into anybody." But the stewards found that Fatefully had interfered with Baked Alaska which in turn hampered Out West, placed fourth.

They considered it was caused by careless riding and had improved the placing of Fatefully who was demoted to fourth and Out West promoted to third.

Senior stewards secretary Patrick Hibbert-Foy said: "It was a borderline case and the stewards deliberated long and hard about their verdict."

"The stewards found Dettori guilty of careless riding because he did not make enough effort to avoid going left across five other runners about half a furlong after the start."

RACING RESULTS

Epsom	
2.10: 1. DANCOE (1) (P) 11-9 fav; 2. Kestrel Fantasy (10-1); 3. Flamingo (10-1); 4. Dancoe (10-1); 5. Dancoe (10-1); 6. Dancoe (10-1); 7. Dancoe (10-1); 8. Dancoe (10-1); 9. Dancoe (10-1); 10. Dancoe (10-1); 11. Dancoe (10-1); 12. Dancoe (10-1); 13. Dancoe (10-1); 14. Dancoe (10-1); 15. Dancoe (10-1); 16. Dancoe (10-1); 17. Dancoe (10-1); 18. Dancoe (10-1); 19. Dancoe (10-1); 20. Dancoe (10-1); 21. Dancoe (10-1); 22. Dancoe (10-1); 23. Dancoe (10-1); 24. Dancoe (10-1); 25. Dancoe (10-1); 26. Dancoe (10-1); 27. Dancoe (10-1); 28. Dancoe (10-1); 29. Dancoe (10-1); 30. Dancoe (10-1); 31. Dancoe (10-1); 32. Dancoe (10-1); 33. Dancoe (10-1); 34. Dancoe (10-1); 35. Dancoe (10-1); 36. Dancoe (10-1); 37. Dancoe (10-1); 38. Dancoe (10-1); 39. Dancoe (10-1); 40. Dancoe (10-1); 41. Dancoe (10-1); 42. Dancoe (10-1); 43. Dancoe (10-1); 44. Dancoe (10-1); 45. Dancoe (10-1); 46. Dancoe (10-1); 47. Dancoe (10-1); 48. Dancoe (10-1); 49. Dancoe (10-1); 50. Dancoe (10-1); 51. Dancoe (10-1); 52. 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sport

218th DERBY: Spoken of in the same breath as Shergar, the favourite could become as celebrated as Nijinsky and Mill Reef

Entrepreneur in the grand Epsom tradition

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Racing Correspondent

It might have something to do with the phalanx of open-top buses overlooking the final furlong, but just at a time the Derby needs an entrepreneur to rescue it two may have come along together.

The Blue Riband as a sporting event has been on the slow path to the graveyard in recent times, but there are glimmers that the racecourse executive now understands a whistle through the fingers is not enough to bring hordes thundering to the occasion.

Advance bookings are up and today will reveal whether the various populist manoeuvres conducted by Sue Ellen, the managing director of the course's owners, United Racecourses, and her cohorts have been successful.

JR (John Reid's sobriquet in the weighing room) has also played a part in the attraction of this year's Derby as he is one of the jockeys who has nurtured the career of today's odds-on favourite, Entrepreneur.

It is some time now since you could mention the name of the Derby winner in the barber's, off-licence or supermarket and be guaranteed a response. It is almost 30 years since Nijinsky and Mill Reef were around, and 16 years since Shergar. And it is a horse who is considered an equal or even better than the last named by their trainer who may now elevate the sport.

The 1997 Derby sits as pretty much a one-horse race. It is a fashion to rubbish the event these days, but if Entrepreneur was not in today's running it would indeed be a contest of considerable mediocrity. The huge appeal now is of 12 rivals turning up with their slings aimed at Michael Stoute's colt.

This is not to say the race is a foregone conclusion, an element the favourite's connections understand more than most.

"Anything can go wrong in the build-up and even in the race things can happen," Michael Kinane, who will be at Entrepreneur's controls, says. "It's like Murphy's Law and anything that can go wrong will go wrong. At the same time you could not possibly swap my horse for anything else in the race because he's got the proper credentials going in."

"The speed he has shown has been remarkable for a horse who is supposedly bred for a mile and a half. But there is a question when a horse shows speed like that whether he has the stamina to back it up. That is a question that has to be on everybody's lips."

Jockeyship is at a premium on Epsom's devilish contours, though Kinane should not be disturbed by the size of the field, the smallest since Generous beat 12 rivals in 1991. Nevertheless, he understands there will be tripwires placed for him.

"Tactically, I see the jockeys on the horses who are definitely going to get the trip going out to make sure I stay," he says. "If you look at them they're not going to beat me for speed, so if I was the opposition, my tactics on the day would be trying to expose Entrepreneur's limitations. The only limitation it appears he might have is stamina."



Heading toward greatness: Entrepreneur can add the Derby to his 2,000 Guineas win Photograph: Phil Cole/Allsport

There is enough hogwash talked about pedigrees in racing to fill the dining tables at a piggery, and the self-styled experts have been at it again in discussing Entrepreneur's genes. Some say he will not stay today's journey, some say he will, but none detail how inexact their science is and that Red Rum was bred to be a sprinter, and Vlad the Impaler's daddy may well have been a Transylvanian postmaster.

More important is Entrepreneur's style of running and in this respect he is remarkably similar to the 1989 2,000 Guineas and Derby winner, Nashua. None of Entrepreneur's victories have been characterised by an instant burst of velocity, but rather a gradual building of irresistible acceleration, rather like a locomotive on the track. This suggests he might not only get the trip, but that he actually needs it to bring out his best.

There are, of course, others to consider, and the broad conviction seems to be that Silver Patriarch will give the favourite most to do. An indelible sensation from watching the grey's performances, however, is that he may be just a little bit slow. Certainly Barry Hills, who saddles two here, thinks that anyone who considers Silver Patriarch can beat Benny The Dip should be sharing a bunk bed with Charles Manson.

Silver Patriarch and Benny The Dip, who has always been considered a 10-furlong horse by his trainer, John Gosden, have both won recognised Derby trials, but the no-hoper Papa apart, they are the most experienced horses in the race. As Lammtarra and Shaamit have shown over the last two years, scores on the board are not a prerequisite for a modern-day Epsom winner.

A more reliable option is the progressive Cloudings, who has developed the facility for winning races with the least possible expenditure of energy. His last three victories have been collected by the maximum of a neck. The stock of André Fabre's colt rose dramatically last weekend with the result of the

Prix du Jockey-Club (French Derby), and he will take advantage if the British horses, as Classic results on the Continent and Ireland have suggested thus far, are a moderate herd this year.

Out there on the domestic prairie though, it appears there is one animal with the capacity to enthrall, a thoroughbred who has helped publicise the Derby like few others in recent years. Given the record of 2,000 Guineas winners going into the Derby, it will be no huge surprise if ENTREPRENEUR (nap 3.45) fails, though at the same time it would be a quite dreadful disappointment.

The financially uncommitted will surely hold the same aspirations as Michael Kinane this afternoon. "As the 2,000 Guineas was his first race of the year you would have to think that fitness-wise he would improve for it," the Irishman says. "If he does stay, and it turns out he wants to go a mile and a half, it could be that he is one of those exceptional horses we don't get very often."

THE EXPERTS' PREDICTIONS

RICHARD EDMONDSON

1. Entrepreneur
2. Cloudings
3. Benny The Dip

GREG WOOD

1. The Fly
2. Entrepreneur
3. Fahris

HYPERION

1. Cloudings
2. Entrepreneur
3. Musalsal

Three grey heirs to a ghostly tale

Three horses, Cloudings, Silver Patriarch and The Fly, today have the chance of becoming only the fifth of their kind in Turf history. Their distinction lies in their silvery coat colour; only four greys have previously won the Derby in 217 runnings.

The first of them was Gustavus in 1821, followed by the filly Tagalie in 1912. Mahmoud in 1936 and Airborne 10 years later. Since Airborne's win, just five of his colour have been placed, most recently Terimon, second to Nashua eight years ago.

Grey racehorses, for all the visions of Pegasus that they provoke, are hugely outnumbered by their less strikingly coloured brethren, the bays, browns and chestnuts. This is because, firstly, grey is not a hue that can lie dormant through the generations and, secondly, there is only one surviving source of greyness in the thoroughbred.

All grey racehorses trace to an Arab stallion, foaled in 1704 and imported, by one Sir Robert Sutton. Known as the Alcock Arabian, this horse had a son, Crab, who was three times champion sire and did much for the promulgation of greyness at the time. Two different lines of descent from him met in the grey mare Bab, foaled in 1787. And on one of her grand-daughters, by a thread, hung the future of the smoky jacket.

This grey mare had nine foals, but only the first, Master Robert, took after her. He was a runner and sire of little account, but from two of his sons came the two strands of grey that are around today. One developed in Britain and Ireland, with the 1891-foaled stallion Grey Leg its most prominent member, and the other, the most influential

Sue Montgomery on the colts trying to end a bleak run for the bleached

thanks to a horse called Roi Herode, in France.

The Fly belongs to Grey Leg's branch, having the long-dread horse as one of his 10 great-grandfathers on his mother's side. Airborne was the only one of 17 grey individual classic winners this century to belong to this tribe.

For it was Roi Herode's brilliant son The Tetrarch, born in 1911, whose influence has been responsible for the modern grey. Cloudings' dam is an eight-greats grand-daughter; Silver Patriarch's mother is not only a five-greats, but numbers Mahmoud among her great-grandparents. Other descen-

dants of The Tetrarch running with honour this season include Silver Charm, going for the US Triple Crown today; the French Guineas winner Daylami and the French Derby fourth Fragrant Mix.

The esoteric science of genetics, with its dominant and recessive qualities of pairs of genes, governs the way the colour of a horse is transmitted from generation to generation. Greyness is not actually a true colour but a bleaching 'mask' overlaid on one of the two basic thoroughbred shades, bay (of which brown and black are variations) and chestnut. If greyness is passed on from a parent, it is expressed in coat colour. If it is not passed on, it dies out of that line at that point.

When it comes down to it, the colour of a horse makes virtually no difference to its ability, but the way it can be traced as

it skips through successive generations from male to female at random shows how qualities that do contribute to athletic excellence can behave.

From Airborne's year, 69 per cent of Derby winners (35 from 51) have been bay or brown, but then 69 per cent of runners (742 from 1,075) have been bay or brown too. There is a slight weighting towards chestnuts (29.5 per cent winners from 27 per cent runners) and against greys, but in time-honoured statistical fashion, that can be read either for or against our being due a grey winner.

During the last century greys had become so rare on the racecourse that the 1881 Lincoln winner, Buchanan, is reputed to have terrified the opposition into submission with his ghostly coat. It is to be hoped that Entrepreneur is made of sterner stuff than those rivals.

3.45 VODAFONE DERBY STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 1) £500,000 added 3YD colts & fillies 1m 4f 10yds Penalty value £595,250

- 1 1113-21 BENNY THE DIP (24) (Owner: Landon Knight) Trainer: J Gosden 9st. W Ryan 8
Bay colt by Silver Hawk (whose progeny on average stay 1m 1.4f) out of Rascal Rascal (who was by Ark Ark)
Form: Won Group Two Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot (1m, good) last year. Was 1½ lengths second to Voyagers Quest in the Group Three Classic Trial at Sandown (1m 2f, good to soft) before winning Group Two Dante Stakes at York (1m 2f 85yds, good) by 2½ lengths from Desert Story. Summary: Stays 1m 2f well, but his pedigree suggests 1m 4f may stretch his stamina and his Dante form - using Desert Story as a yardstick - leaves him something to find with Entrepreneur. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Rating 113
- 2 4-21 BOLD DEMAND (11) (Godolphin) Saeed bin Suwair 9st. I Dettori 2
Bay colt by Rainbow Quest (1m 2.5f) out of Dettah (Dartford)
Form: Finished three lengths second to Single Empire at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm) on his reappearance before beating Shaya by half a length in a Sandown (1m 2f, good to firm) maiden. Summary: Lightly-raced and is taking a big step up in class, tackling a Group One race after winning a maiden. Moreover, he has shown signs of temperament - he flashes his tail under pressure. However, he is bred to stay 1m 4f and should win more races in easier company. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Rating 107
- 3 41-11 CLOUDINGS (27) (Sheikh Mohammed) A Fabre (Fr) 9st. O Peslier 14
Grey colt by Sadler's Wells (1m 2.8f) out of Isaphan (Rushtari)
Form: Won valuable auction race at Deauville (1m, good to soft) last year. Won Listed race at Longchamp (1m 2f 110yds, good to firm) by a neck from Zarith and then landed Group One Prix Lupin at Longchamp (1m 2f 110yds, good to soft). Summary: His chance was boosted when stablemate Penine Celebre won the Prix Du Jockey Club (French Derby) on Sunday, with Astarabad - behind Cloudings in the Prix Lupin - a creditable third. Bred to stay 1m 4f and has each-way chance. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Rating 119
- 4 41-521 CRYSTAL HEARTED (30) (Mrs C M Poland) H Candy 9st. A McGloin 9
Bay colt by Broken Hearted (1m 1.6f) out of Crystal Fountain (Great Nephew)
Form: Progressive performer. Impressed last time when making all the running to win a three-runner Listed race at Chester (1m 2f 85yds, heavy) by 13 lengths from Barnum Sands. Summary: Progressive sort who clearly enjoys front-running and, a half-brother to the useful stayer High Fountain, seems sure to stay 1m 4f well. He acts on good to firm ground as well as heavy but is tackling by far his toughest race here and may find a few too quick for him. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Rating 106
- 5 411-1 ENTREPRENEUR (35) (M Tabor) M Stoute 9st. M Kinane 13
Bay colt by Sadler's Wells (1m 2.8f) out of Exclusive Order (Exclusive Nephew)
Form: Won minor races at Kempton (7f, good) and Chester (7f 122yds, good) last year. Won Group One 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket (1m, good to firm) on his seasonal debut, always prominent, leading two furlongs out and staying on to hold Revocque by three-quarters of a length with Desert Story eight lengths back in sixth place. Summary: Won what looked, on the clock at least, a good 2,000 Guineas in style and is bred to be equally effective at 1m 4f. Should be hard to beat. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Rating 125
- 6 12-1 FAHRIS (51) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) B Harty 9st. R Hills 10
Chestnut colt by Generous (1m 1.9f) out of Jendy (90s)
Form: Won maiden at Salisbury (7f, firm) and beaten a neck in Listed race at Pontefract (1m, good) last year. Showed improved form on his seasonal debut when winning Listed Falden Stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm) by three lengths from Panama City. Summary: Has not run since April due to stomach problems but has recovered and is working well. His form leaves him something to find but he clocked a decent time in the Falden and is bred to be even better at 1m 4f. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Rating 112
- 7 51-13 MUSALSAL (24) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) B Hills 9st. M Hills 6
Bay colt by Sadler's Wells (1m 2.8f) out of Ozone Friendly (Green Forest)
Form: Won at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) in March by a short-head from Handsome Ridge before finishing 3½ lengths third to Benny The Dip in the Group Two Dante Stakes at York (1m 2f 85yds, good). Summary: Stayed on well in the Dante but his pedigree suggests that 1m 2f may be as far as he wants to go. Should win more races in lesser company but needs to improve out of all recognition if he is to pull off a shock victory here. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Rating 105
- 8 215-324 PAPUA (28) (R Hitchens & E Hitchens) J Balding 9st. G Carter 11
Chestnut colt by Green Dancer (1m 2.7f) out of Fairy Tern (Mill Reef)
Form: Won valuable 23-runner contest at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) last October. Was 1½ lengths second of three to Pello Sly at Epsom (1m 4f 10yds, good to firm) in April but finished tailed off behind Silver Patriarch in the Group Three Lingfield Derby Trial (1m 3f 106yds, soft) last time. Summary: Summary: Stays 1m 4f and goes on good to firm ground but has had his limitations exposed in three starts this term and would have to improve massively to figure here. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Rating 104
- 9 113 ROMANOV (13) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9st. J Reid 7
Bay colt by Nureyev (7f 6f) out of Morning Devotion (Affirmed)
Form: Won a maiden at Haydock (7f, soft) prior to winning at Sandown (1m, good). Showed improved form to finish five lengths third to Desert King in the Group One Irish 2,000 Guineas at the Curragh (1m, good) last time. Summary: Smart colt who showed he is not far from top class in the Irish Guineas. Bred to stay 1m 2f, but will be very much venturing into unknown territory over 1m 4f and may not have the stamina to last home. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Rating 110
- 10 411-31 SILVER PATRIARCH (28) (D) (P S Winfield) J Dunlop 9st. Pat Eddery 5
Grey colt by Sadler's Hall (1m 2.8f) out of Early Rising (Grey Dawn II)
Form: Finished creditable 1½ lengths third to Voyagers Quest and Benny The Dip in Group Three Classic Trial at Sandown (1m 2f, good to soft) on his reappearance prior to winning the Group Three Lingfield Derby Trial at Lingfield (1m 3f 106yds, soft) by seven lengths from Tanaasa. Summary: Smart colt who stays really well and may turn the tables on Benny The Dip over this longer trip. However, his best form is on soft ground and he may find a couple too quick for him. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Rating 109
- 11 1511 SINGLE EMPIRE (13) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9st. D Harrison 4
Chestnut colt by Nureyev (7f 6f) out of Captive Island (Northfields)
Form: Won maiden at Kempton (1m 3f, good to firm) in March and stakes race at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm) before winning the Group One Derby Italiano in Rome (1m 4f, firm) by a short-head from Ungaro. Summary: Demonstrated he stays 1m 4f well and goes on fast ground when winning the Italian Derby. Tackles much tougher opposition here but may be capable of further improvement and must have each-way prospects. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Rating 109
- 12 323-1 SYMONDS INN (23) (Marquesa de Moratalla) J Fitzgerald 9st. K Fallon 1
Chestnut colt by In The Wings (1m 2.6f) out of Shining Eyes (Mr Prospector)
Form: Showed steadily improved form on each of his three outings last year and made a highly promising seasonal debut when staying on well in the closing stages to beat Shaya by 3½ lengths in a stakes race at York (1m 2f 85yds, good). Summary: Is a difficult ride - he tends to hang and flash his tail under pressure - but clearly quite useful and is bred to stay 1m 4f. Needs to improve to take a hand in the finish. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Rating 110
- 13 3-12 TANAASA (28) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Stoute 9st. Doubtful 12
Bay colt by Sadler's Wells (1m 2.8f) out of Mesmerize (Mill Reef)
Form: Created a favourable impression when winning a maiden at Leicester (1m 2f, good to soft) before finishing seven lengths second to Silver Patriarch in the Group Three Lingfield Derby Trial at Lingfield (1m 3f 106yds, soft). Summary: Was found to be lame on his right hind leg yesterday morning and, although declared as an intended runner at Thursday's 48-hour declaration stage, is extremely unlikely to take part. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Rating 100
- 14 0114-1 THE FLY (25) (Mrs J M Corbett) B Hills 9st. R Cochrane 3
Grey colt by Phary (1m 2.7f) out of Nelly Do De (Darring Do)
Form: Showed fair form last year. Put up a smart performance to win a valuable rated handicap at York (1m 2f 85yds, good) on his seasonal debut in a smart time by an easy two lengths from Silveran. Summary: Quicker on well to win in impressive style at York. Takes a massive step up in class here but effort on the clock at York suggests he is no forlorn hope and he is bred to stay 1m 4f. Could finish in the first three at a big price. Going ✓ Distance ✓ Rating 110

BETTING: 4-5 Entrepreneur, 11-2 Silver Patriarch, 7-1 Benny The Dip, 10-1 Cloudings, 12-1 Fahris, 20-1 Bold Demand, 25-1 Symonds Inn, The Fly, 28-1 Romanov, 33-1 Musalsal, Single Empire, 66-1 Crystal Hearted, 200-1 Papua, Shaamit 3 9 0 M Hills 12-1 (W Haggas) 20 ran

Compiled by Ian Davies

FIRST SHOW ON THE DERBY

Horse (Trainer)	Corral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Total
Entrepreneur (M Stoute)	4-5	4-5	4-5	evens
Silver Patriarch (J Dunlop)	5-1	11-2	6-1	5-1
Benny The Dip (J Gosden)	7-1	7-1	8-1	7-1
Cloudings (A Fabre/Fr)	11-1	11-1	9-1	10-1
Fahris (B Harty)	12-1	12-1	14-1	12-1
Bold Demand (Saeed bin Suwair)	25-1	20-1	16-1	25-1
Symonds Inn (J Fitzgerald)	22-1	28-1	28-1	28-1
Musalsal (B Hills)	25-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Romanov (P Chapple-Hyam)	33-1	28-1	25-1	33-1
The Fly (B Hills)	33-1	22-1	20-1	20-1
Single Empire (P Chapple-Hyam)	33-1	33-1	40-1	33-1
Crystal Hearted (M Stoute)	80-1	66-1	66-1	50-1
Papua (J Balding)	200-1	200-1	250-1	200-1
Tanaasa (M Stoute)	doubtful	doubtful	doubtful	doubtful

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3

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10-YEAR-TALE

	1987	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
Fate of the favourite:	1	4	1	14	8/9	9	10	1	11	2
Winner's place in betting:	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	0	0
Starting prices:	8-4	11-1	5-4	7-1	9-1	8-1	15-2	7-2	14-1	12-1
Winning distances:	10/19	13/14	10/12	10/18	10/13	4/18	6/16	15/26	7/15	9/20
Profit or loss to £1 stake:	Favourites - £0.75	Second Favourites + £1.50								
Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race:	70%									
Shortest-priced winner:	Nashua 5-4 (1989)									
Longest-priced winner:	Lammtarra 14-1 (1995)									
Top trainer:	H Cecil - Reference Point (1987), Commander In Chief (1993)									
Top jockey:	W Carson - Nashua (1989), Enhance (1994)									
Fastest winning time:	2min 32.31sec Lammtarra (1995) firm going									
Slowest winning time:	2min 37.26sec Quest For Fame (1990) soft going									

WILLIAM HILL'S FIELD BOOK

Horse	Current odds	Longest odds (1997)	Biggest bet (£)	Taken (£)
Entrepreneur	4-5	33-1	60,000-12,000	530,800
Silver Patriarch	11-2	66-1	21,000-3,000	193,750
Benny The Dip	7-1	33-1	100,000-10,000	286,750
Cloudings	11-1	33-1	33,000-1,000	247,700
Fahris	12-1	66-1	40,000-2,000	257,500
Bold Demand	20-1	66-1	56,000-1,000	215,000
The Fly	22-1	100-1	50,000-1,000	195,000
Romanov	28-1	50-1	20,000-400	182,500
Symonds Inn	28-1	150-1	25,000-750	164,750
Musalsal	25-1	66-1	15,500-500	104,500
Single Empire	33-1	50-1	50,000-1,000	103,000
Crystal Hearted	80-1	100-1	10,000-500	148,700
Tanaasa	doubtful	66-1	20,000-500	52,850
Papua	200-1	200-1	30,000-200	44,500

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218th DERBY: From a fancy-dress rehearsal at the age of 10 through a life of dedication Entrepreneur's rider is always prepared

Kinane follows Piggott's path to perfection

If Entrepreneur does not win the Derby this afternoon they will find somebody to blame. As Groville Starkey will be able to tell Michael Kinane, when the posse mobilises and comes through the night with their torches, the meeting point will be the defeated jockey's home.

Starkey partnered numerous Classic winners in his enduring career, but the one ride he is remembered for was around Epsom's canyons one June day in 1986. Shastrastar won, but, more memorably, Dancing Brave lost and the belief is that Grev was caught napping.

They say Kinane could sleep on cheese wire and the prospect of steering the odds-on Entrepreneur over the undulating battleground of the Surrey Downs has not disturbed the Irishman's reverie this week either. "Naturally enough everyone's attention is going to be on my every move, but then your own self-confidence to see the job through comes in and I've no great worries about the race," he says.

"If anybody says they're not nervous on Derby day then they're lying. The apprehension is all part and parcel of rising to the occasion, because you've got to be psyched up for the job. But I've no qualms about that side of it at all because I'm in an enviable position and other people have more reason to worry than I do."

Michael Kinane has been a dramatic influence in British racing ever since he replaced Pat Eddery, who was committed to another horse, on the 1990 2,000 Guineas winner, Trol. He was initially christened superb, but the last syllable has long since disappeared.

Serendipity has continued to choose him as her favourite son. He has been united with further excel-

lent horses by accident, most notably Belmez, Commander In Chief and now Entrepreneur, who was Walter Swinburn's ride until the ravages of a starvation diet removed him from the saddle.

Kinane has worked hard at his natural talents, buffing them up rather than letting rust creep in through misuse. He prepares for a race like no other man in the weighing room. Kinane used to buy the tapes from the closed-circuit television people to analyse his mistakes, and to this day spends hours assessing both his and other horses in a race, and how the encounter will unfold. The rider watched videos of the previous 20 Melbourne Cups before his victory on Vintage Crop in 1993.

Much of this musing takes place as he is shaving at his home on the Curragh, where he has been buying land around Clunmore Lodge down the years in a buffer-state policy. If an intruder had to plant a bug on the premises, the optimum position would be in his bathroom, behind one of three framed photographs depicting, respectively, Marilyn Monroe, a fat lady on a bike and a gorilla looking at a club sandwich.

This practice, in his mind, is what gets Kinane closer to perfection than most. "It's not what he does well, it's what he does badly, and that's not a lot," John Reid, Kinane's fellow Irishman and Derby winner, says. "He doesn't make mistakes."

"He's got bags of ability, but more importantly he wants to work hard. I've known him was a very good rider for a long time, but until you prove yourself in England nobody wants to know. With Michael it's like a bottle of milk. No matter how many times you keep shaking, the cream will always come back to the top."

Richard Edmondson talks to the favourite's jockey with the punch to fend off pressure

Kinane's adherence to Baden-Powell philosophy has been particularly acute this week. "It's very important in racing to be prepared and on Derby day I will be," he says. "I'll know what I want to do through the race and I'll have run it over thousands of times in my head. The tactics will be in order and from then on it will be down to concentration. "I know the track very well and I

'It's not what he does well, it's what he does badly, and that's not a lot'

know all the recent Derbys, I can replay them in my mind. I can remember at least as far back as when Lester started winning (on Never Say Die in 1954) and I love watching him as the tactical master.

"All his Derby rides are memorable for his brilliance round there and, if you watch him, he was the only one who never seemed to be out of position at any time in the race."

While Piggott was all guile in the saddle and Dettori is sleek with the fast hands of a card sharp, the sensation with Kinane is of a terrible force building up behind a horse's neck.

One of his idiosyncrasies is that he grips his mounts' manes rather than the reins when he jumps out of the

stalls, a technique he witnessed in the United States. At a finish, he pushes his fists so forcefully into the neck of his conveyances that he is sometimes actually punching them.

Kinane does not indulge in the post-race circus tumbles of Dettori, but spectators cannot miss his reaction, particularly if he is denied. His body seems to struggle to contain the rage that is erupting inside.

Kinane is an appalling loser. His two young daughters know better than to beat him at draughts. He admits he is moody and the prisoner of his own thoughts, a condition which is made all the more frightening when the hairy barbed wire of his luxuriant fair eyebrows knots together.

Thus he is not one of those jockeys who sprinkles guests in a marquee with light repartee before going out to ride. If you are feeling lucky you can call him Mickey-Joe, as the braver in the weighing room spoof him. The surname is pronounced Kin-ane, as in the christian name.

This figure is from a racing family (his father Tommy won the 1978 Champion Hurdle on Montfield) and it is fair to say not much else has occupied his mind during 37 years on the planet. When he attended a fancy-dress party aged 10 he went as Piggott.

Another building block towards our man's character was his youthful period with Liam Browne, the Irish trainer who also produced the likes of Tommy Carmody, Mark Dwyer and Warren O'Connor. For many others Browne's stable was a different type of finishing school, an apprentice academy which was like Tenko without the creature comforts.

Kinane has emerged from this whitest of kilns to become the multiple champion of Ireland (thanks largely to the patronage of Dermot

Weld) and a leading player in Hong Kong. The translation of his name into Chinese means dark tiger, which is good *feng shui* for the gambling-demented public in the colony.

Kinane showed he was up to winning a Derby with Commander In Chief's triumph in 1993, the day he remembers "they were strung out behind me like a long line of brown cows". But now he is asked to withstand the metal-buckling pressure of piloting an odds-on shot around the world's most demanding circuit. His partner, ironically enough, has been prepared in much of his work on the Newmarket trial grounds by Starkey.

Entrepreneur has engendered excitement from the moment he surged away with the 2,000 Guineas last month. "The horse had speed at half-way when I really needed it," Kinane says. "He showed great acceleration to kick in and really grab hold of the race. It's always a sign of a good horse when he can take control at any time in a race. It was a great performance because he raced for the whole eight furlongs of the Guineas and not every horse is adaptable enough to do that."

Like many sportsmen, Kinane has been collected by the narcotic effect of winning at the highest level. "The hunger does not diminish," he says. "Once you get a taste of it you want more. That's what motivates you as you get older. What keeps me going more than anything is the big races and trying to get on good horses."

"It would be better to win the Derby this time because it would be more recent. You can't live on memories, they don't feed the children." We know by now, however, that when the stalls crash open at 3.45 this afternoon not even little Sinead or Aisling will be on the mind of the man emerging from stall No 13.



Kinane: 'He doesn't make mistakes' Photograph: Robert Hallam

Silver Charm attempts to win over America

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Americans too are waiting to hail a wonder horse today. Silver Charm, who has already won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes, attempts to become only the 12th horse in history to complete the US Triple Crown in the Belmont Stakes at Belmont Park, New York, tonight.

This feat has not been achieved since 1978, when a little lad called Steve Cauthen partnered Affirmed to the hat-trick. Four colts - Spectacular Bid, Pleasant Colony, Alysheba and Sunday Silence - have subsequently won the first two legs before failing at Belmont's final hurdle.

Should Silver Charm win he will join the exalted company of such as Citation, Secretariat

and Seattle Slew, and he may also prompt a celebration of the bizarre in the winners' enclosure.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Entrepreneur
(Score 3.45)
NB: Conspicuous
(Epsom 3.00)

sure. The three-year-old is trained by a former history

teacher Bob Baffert, whose post-race antics make Frankie Dettori look like a drollard. When he once captured a race on Halloween, Baffert welcomed back his winner with a plastic pumpkin on his head.

If Silver Charm, the 6-5 favourite, does indeed collect the 129th running of the Belmont he will earn a \$3m bonus. "It's been fun but I'll be glad when it's all over," Baffert said.

"So far things have gone smoothly and the horse got here great."

The Classics spill over into tomorrow too when three British fillies make an assault on the Prix de Diane (French Oaks) at Chantilly. The strongest of the challengers appears to be the Dettori-riden Ryafan, whose trainer, John Gosden, is also represented by Khasash. The raiding party is completed by

Peter Chapple-Hyam's Dances With Dreams.

The visitors were squashed in the colts' equivalent, the Prix du Jockey-Club last weekend, however, and the French resistance once again looks formidable. The unbeaten Always Loyd, who won her domestic 1,000 Guineas for Criquelette Head, is likely to start favourite, and other influences may be Mousse Glacee and Brilliance.

CHANTILLY - Sunday

3.15	PRIX DE DIANE HERMES (Group 1) 3YO fillies	1m 2f 110yds Penalty Value £184,453	BBC2
1	121-4 RIVAN (USA) (23) (M) (Alysheba) 9.0	D. Dettori 7.13	
2	124 DANCING QUEEN (23) (M) (Alysheba) 9.0	D. Dettori 7.13	
3	125-1 DANCING QUEEN (23) (M) (Alysheba) 9.0	D. Dettori 7.13	
4	126-2 DANCING QUEEN (23) (M) (Alysheba) 9.0	D. Dettori 7.13	
5	127-3 DANCING QUEEN (23) (M) (Alysheba) 9.0	D. Dettori 7.13	
6	128-4 DANCING QUEEN (23) (M) (Alysheba) 9.0	D. Dettori 7.13	
7	129-5 DANCING QUEEN (23) (M) (Alysheba) 9.0	D. Dettori 7.13	
8	130-6 DANCING QUEEN (23) (M) (Alysheba) 9.0	D. Dettori 7.13	
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GODING: Good (Good to Firm), Penetration 3.0.
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IMAGE OF THE WEEK Dawn over the countryside near Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent and balloons float over a weekend rally of vintage cars, bikes and aeroplanes. The stars are the balloons, which come in all shapes including a house, a whisky bottle, and Bertie Bassett of liquorice Allsort fame. Photograph by Philip Meech using a Nikon F90 with a 20mm lens, 1/125th sec at f8, with a multi-film. To order this picture phone 0171-293 2534

the long weekend

THE INDEPENDENT • SATURDAY 7 JUNE 1997

WORDS OF THE WEEK

Leonardo da Vinci wrestled with the belief that fossils provided a key to the earth's structure. His findings on fossils were enshrined in the 'Leicester Codex', so called because it was the property of the Earl of Leicester for more than 250 years. Professor Stephen Jay Gould contends that the 'Codex' as a whole is indeed a proposal for the structure of the earth, and is also a crucial insight into Leonardo's artistic and spiritual beliefs.

The irony of Leonardo's notebooks is that by the time they were published a couple of centuries later, most of his wonderful observations had already been made again. So Leonardo comes across as a spaceman, a man out of his time. The myth continues that Leonardo stood alone and above because he combined his unparalleled genius with a thoroughly modern methodology based on close observation and clever experiment.

I think that this conventional view couldn't be more wrong in its general approach to the history of knowledge, or more stultifying in our quest to understand the most fascinating man of our intellectual past. We'll never understand him if we insist on reading him as a modernist among the Medicis, a futurist at the court of Francis the First. Leonardo operates in the context of his time. To understand him we must chronicle and respect the medieval sources and character of his thought.

I'm going to begin by acknowledging the truly prescient character of the observations, but what alternative account of fossils was Leonardo trying to disprove with these observations, and secondly, what theory of the earth was he trying to support?

I have a favourite line from Darwin, from an 1863 letter: "How can anyone not see that all observation must be for or against some view if it is to be of any service?" Leonardo's keen observations do seem to emit a wonderful whiff of modernity, but he recorded all his information explicitly to confute the two major interpretations of fossils current in his day, which had been proposed to resolve a problem. Namely, if fossil shells were the remains of marine organisms, how

'We will never understand Leonardo if we think of him as a modernist among the Medicis'

did they get entombed in strata that lie in mountains thousands of feet above present sea levels?

The first idea that he wants to ridicule is that the fossils were transported by the high waters and violent currents of Noah's flood – an idea that remained standard until the 18th century.

He deals even more contemptuously with neo-platonic versions of the theory that fossils are not remnants of ancient organisms at all, but manifestations of some plastic force within the rocks or some emanations from the stars capable of precisely mimicking a living creature in order to illustrate the symbolic harmony among realms of nature. Because if the fossils really belong to the mineral kingdom, then their position on the tops of mountains ceases to be anomalous: they're not real organisms. This was a real issue, and the confutation of it was a major event in 17th-century paleontology.

Just as Leonardo made his astute observations to refute prevailing theories of fossils, he also wrote his interpretations to support his own favourite theory. On this point, he could not have been more squarely Renaissance or late medieval, more firmly attached to his own time and concerns, and not to ours.



Why does he devote so much apparently subsidiary space to the nature of fossils? The key to the problem lies in water, and in Leonardo's almost heroic struggle to overcome the essential difficulty in validating his crucial analogy of the earth's macrocosm to the body's microcosm. Both are made of the four elements: earth, air, fire and water. But the human body saves itself by circulating these elements, particularly by maintaining some mechanism for permitting water to rise from the legs to the head. The analogy of microcosm to macrocosm can work only if the earth also possesses a comparable mechanism. He knew water moved up – somehow – because it came out as springs at the top of the mountain.

Now, here's the central irony. He never did solve the problem that was the main subject of the *Leicester Codex*: he never found a satisfactory mechanism to account for the upward motion of water. However (and this is a vital point that has usually been missed), Leonardo did succeed in his quest to find a mechanism for the upward motion of the other heavy element: earth. The fossils on the mountains provide the observational truth that the earth can rise.

His argument is that the earth's structure is not

homogeneous. It's a marbled mass of rocks and internal canyons and of waters – one hemisphere of the earth, as Leonardo saw it, is heavier than the other. The earth has to balance itself as a see-saw: if you're heavier, you have to move yourself closer to the centre. Therefore, the heavier hemisphere has to move towards the centre and the lighter hemisphere has to move away, to keep the balance.

Leonardo thinks that every once in a while a piece from the earth's interior is eroded – in this illustration, from the upper hemisphere – and falls into the centre and drapes itself around the centre of gravity. The bottom hemisphere gets heavier and moves in towards the centre, and the upper hemisphere rises, and the strata that contained the fossils underwater are pushed up to form mountains. What's the proof that this is true? Again, the fossils on the mountains.

Now we can grasp the central importance of Leonardo's paleontological observations in the *Leicester Codex*. He features this subject in order to validate the cherished centrepiece of his pre-modern world view: the earth as living, self-sustaining organism. He requires above all a general device to make the heavy elements, earth and water, move upwards against their natural inclination so that the earth can sustain itself like a living body. He failed to find such a mechanism for the chief subject of the *Leicester Codex*, water, and his lack of resolution caused him great frustration, but he succeeded, as he thought, for the even heavier element of earth. But he needed evidence that land did in fact rise.

Thus, Leonardo made his superb observations in order to validate his lovely but antiquated view of a meaningful and precise unity between the human body's microcosm and the earth's macrocosm. Leonardo: a truly brilliant observer. No spaceman, but a citizen of his own instructive and fascinating time.

Professor Stephen Jay Gould: 'Leonardo's "Modern" Observations on Fossils: The Medieval Context and Rationale'. Part of the Last Word lunch-time lecture series at the Royal Geographical Society

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The draughty state of E Lasker

William Hartston rediscovers a game invented by one of the first world chess champions

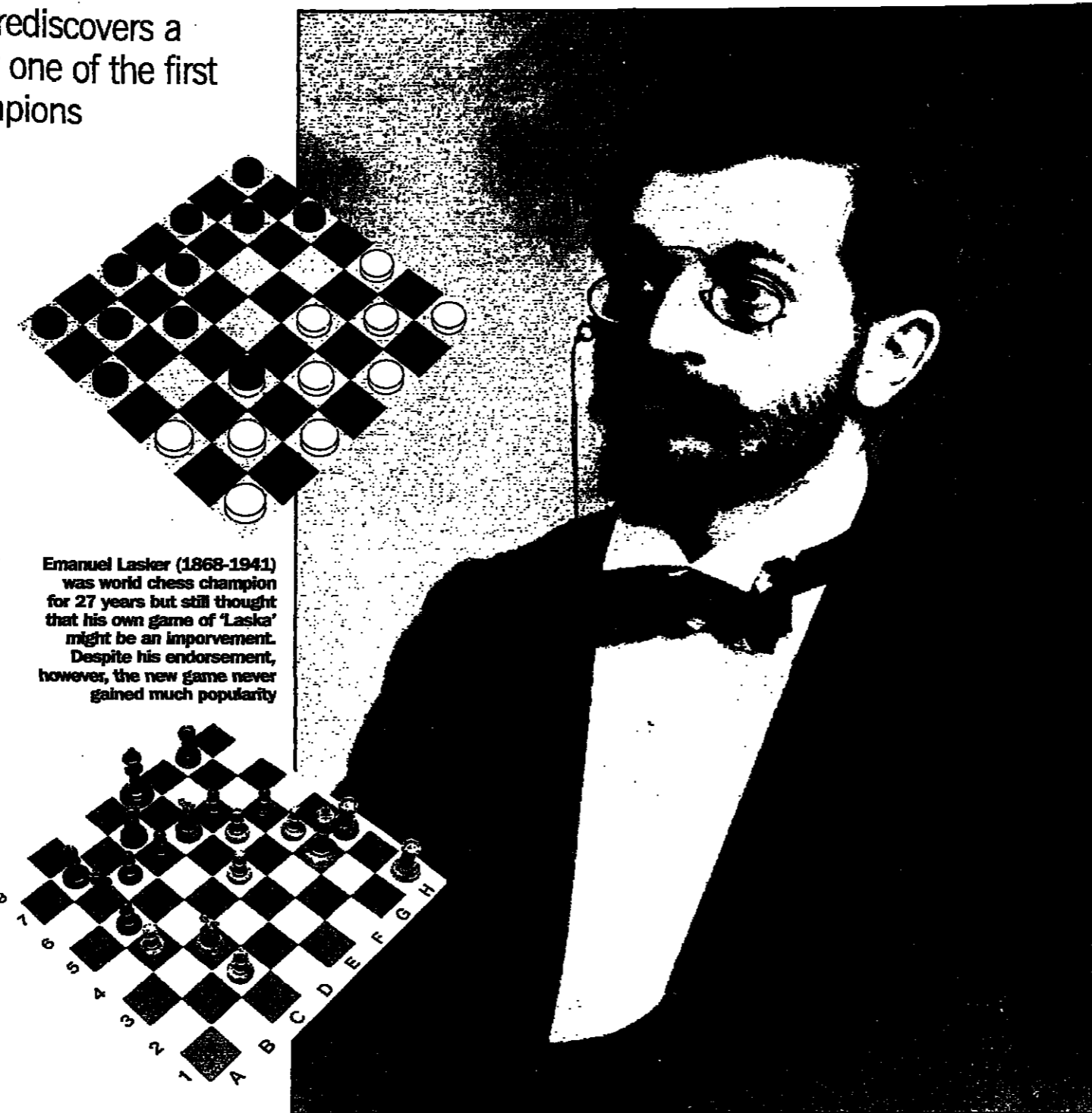
Emanuel Lasker was the world chess champion from 1894 until 1921 – a longer reign than anyone else. He also added to the theory of mathematics, wrote treatises on philosophy, and was a very fine bridge player. Despite all that, however, he still felt the need to invent a game of his own, a game that did not suffer from the same infuriating intractability as chess, or the element of luck that bedevils all card games.

So Lasker invented Laska (or Lasca, or Laskers, as later versions of the same game came to be known). For the rules that follow, and a good deal of the rest of the information in this piece, we are grateful to our reader Stanley Daniels, who put us on the trail of this forgotten game.

The game is similar to draughts, played on a seven-by-seven board. Each player starts with 11 men, placed on his back three ranks. Moves and capturing are just as in draughts, with one crucial exception: when a man is captured, it is not removed from the board, but placed underneath the man that captured it.

In the position illustrated, White has made his first move into the board's centre square and Black has captured it, resulting in a two-storey piece with the white man below the black one. White now recaptures, with one of his two men placed to do so, jumping over the double-decker and removing its top layer only, which will then reside beneath the capturing man, leaving a single black piece on the square formerly occupied by the double-decker. If a two-tier piece makes a capture, it will grow another level.

Pieces may grow in size as the game proceeds, but in every case are under the control of the player whose colour is on top. You win the game when you control all the pieces. As in normal draughts, you must make a capture if one is possible. Also as in draughts, a piece promotes to a king if it reaches the other side. You then need some way to mark it, because it will remain a king for the rest of the game, even if subsequently submerges beneath other pieces. The



Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941) was world chess champion for 27 years but still thought that his own game of 'Laska' might be an improvement. Despite his endorsement, however, the new game never gained much popularity.

power of any pile of pieces, however (ie whether it moves as a king or an ordinary man) is determined by the status of the piece on top.

And that's about all there is to it. Whereas in chess and normal draughts, the position tends to become simpler and more technical as captures limit the number of pieces on the board, nothing ever leaves the playing area in Laska, and every capture is liable to increase the complexity of the

position. As a simple example, consider the pile that results from a series of captures of several single pieces by one white piece.

This will leave a pile in White's control, but a black monster with many lives lurks beneath it. One capture of the pile will leave a piece in Black's control that needs to be captured several times before White can claim it as his own.

(And before you ask, no, a king cannot hop backwards and for-

wards over the same piece, lopping off layer after layer in a single move.)

After its invention in 1911, the game of Laska was played by several notable chess masters including its inventor's namesake, Edward Lasker, and the great German world title challenger Dr Siegbert Tarrasch. All seem to have received it favourably, but somehow the game never caught on.

The games historian David

Pritchard tells us that Lasca (with a "c") was first marketed by CEI & Co shortly after its invention, and a patent applied for. It was described as a "great military game – a game to teach cautiousness and tactics". There is evidence of only one "Laska Association", a short-lived organisation at Clare College, Cambridge in the Seventies.

We shall be grateful for any further information or sightings of this lost game.

Games people play

without hesitation, repetition or deviation by Pandora Melly

Ian Messiter, 77, inventor of 'Just a Minute', 'Many a Slip' and other games

Games come to me quite easily compared with other things. I can always invent a game if I have to. Just a Minute began at school in an English lesson. The master pointed at me and said: "Messiter, stand up. Tell me what I've been saying for the last minute." Then he whacked me. I thought at the time that it would make a good game – all the awful things in my life have been turned into fun.

Games are only as good as the people who play them. The funniest person I ever had on the panel was an actress called Margo Holden. She had a voice like an eight-year-old child and she never knew what she was talking about. I'd say: "You were very funny this evening," and she'd say: "Oh, was I? I'm sorry."

On Many a Slip, the chairman would read out paragraphs with factual, historical or grammatical errors, and the team would buzz if they thought they'd heard a mistake.

My fascination with language must have come from my father. He was a great one for absolute clarity, and he wouldn't let me use a word that was wrong or out of context.

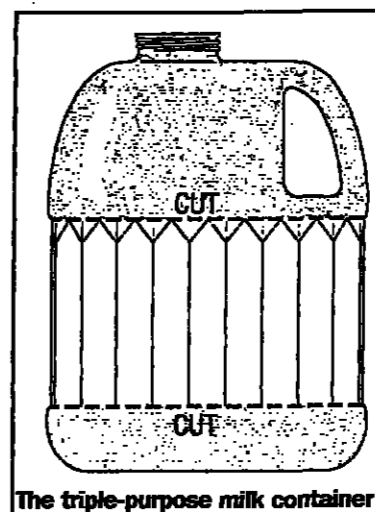
Oddly enough, I didn't have a favourite game when I was little. Happy Families was the only thing I played. I'm not a competitive person, but competitiveness can be a good thing if you've got a humorous team who take it seriously. Taking part is more important, though. I've noticed that people do like to win.

The elements of a good game are that it should be friendly and fun. It needs to be fairly clever. If it's stupid, people won't bother with it. Also it should contain information that they didn't know before. That's about all. And no rude words.

Just a Minute (speak for a minute on a given topic without deviation, hesitation, repetition, saying 'I' or using one of the prohibited words) will be in the shops next month. Made by Paul Lamond Games. price: £14.99-£15.99.

Don't junk it ... use it

More readers' ideas creatively recycled



The triple-purpose milk container

This week, another instalment of readers' own uses for things that might otherwise have been thrown away. The illustration shows three ideas of Mrs C Thomas of Worthing, West Sussex. Starting with a four-pint milk container, you slice off the top for use, with the lid off, as a funnel, or with the lid on as a scoop for pet food or seed compost.

Meanwhile, the bottom section makes a dish for soap or Brillo pads, and can even be used as a pastry cutter for jam turnovers or small Cornish pasties. Finally, the middle part may be cut into strips with pointed ends, to be used as seed tray markers. Or, says Mrs Thomas, you can leave it intact

to be used as a cuff to protect small garden plants. Following our earlier ideas for things to do with beer cans, Mike Mitchell of Manchester offers some recycling for those who prefer the bottled variety: "Drink 200 bottles of your favourite beer or soft drink," he begins. You then nail the metal bottle-caps upside down in neat lines to a rectangular piece of wood about a foot square and an inch thick. Place outside kitchen door as an effective mud-scraper. Hose down occasionally to clean off the mud.

Finally, a decorative idea from Ms Lee Campion: "When Dad is doing his carpentry, that nice little pile of sawdust can be recycled. Just mix it with paste, then roll one teaspoonful into a ball. Pierce the ball with a matchstick, then let it dry. Rub over with sandpaper. Brush with paste sealer. Dry. Coat with gesso (available from an art shop).

"Now paint it any colour you like, make a dozen more, thread them all on to a leather thong and you have a prize-winning do-it-yourself necklace." And Ms Campion really did win a prize for such a concoction recently.

Bawn O'Beime-Ranelagh

Correction

Last week on this page we gave an incorrect telephone number for SFC Press, the publishers of Games Games Games magazine and "Ludography", the annual review of new games. Their correct details are as follows: SFC Press, 42 Wymndale Road, London E18 1DX, (0181-491-7784).

The games page is edited by William Hartston

Held over from last week – apologies for any inconvenience caused

This is the tailpiece from last week's discussion of *The Bible Code*, a new book cracking codes allegedly hidden in the Bible. We had explained how you scarcely needed to venture further than the first verse of Genesis for an exact prediction of New Labour's majority. Now read on:

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The first word, "In" has 2 letters. The first two words have a combined 2+3 = 5 letters.

The third word, "beginning", indicates that we must start counting again: "beginning" has 9 letters.

"God" is word number 4, so we go forth and multiply 4 by the number of letters in the fifth word: 4x7 = 28.

The next two words "the" and "heaven" have 3 and 6 letters respectively. The previous word, "created", indicates that we must find a new way of "creating" 3x6,

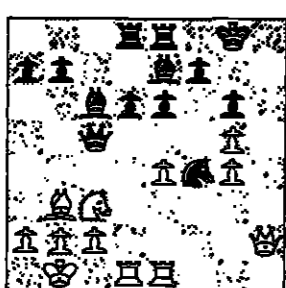
which is clearly 2x9, hence 29. Finally, the last three words "and the earth" have 3, 3 and 5 letters: 3x3x5 = 45.

So the total prediction of the first verse of the Bible leads to the numbers 2, 5, 9, 28, 29, 45 – which are precisely the winning numbers in last week's lottery.

We are sorry that for reasons of space we were unable to publish this information last Saturday and hope that it did not cause any inconvenience.

The winning numbers this week may, of course, be found in a similar fashion. We leave the details to you.

Chess William Hartston



When working out a possible attacking combination, for yourself or your opponent, checks, heavy threats and captures are not so difficult to take into account. It is the insidious moves in between that need looking for.

In today's game from the Russian championship, Black accepted a piece sacrifice with the intention of returning the material to secure a comfortable game. In the diagram position, he had just captured a pawn on f4 with his knight and must have been expecting either Qxf4 Qxg5 or Rh1 Qc5.

White's reply threw a huge spanner in the works. Can you find it?

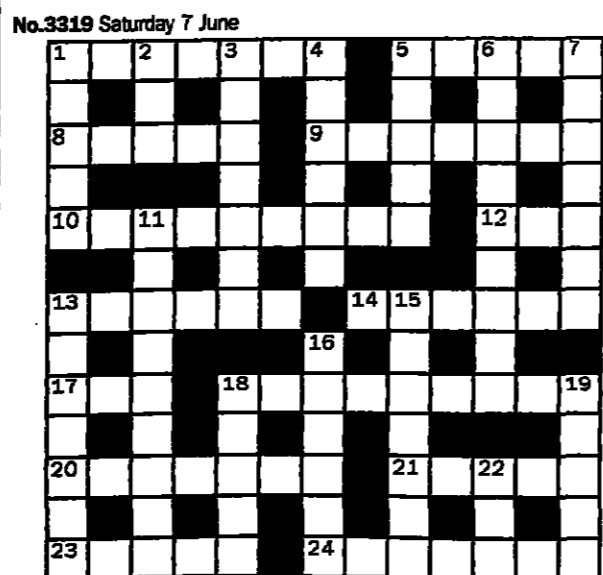
Here are the full moves of the game. White's idea of meeting ...h6 with h4, offering the bishop in order to open the h-file, is very old, though not often seen after White has moved his rook away from h1. Instead of taking the bait with 17...Nh5 and 18...hxg5, Black should have played 17...Kxh5 – as he would surely have done if he had seen 21.Nd5! in time. By

interfering with the black queen's path to e5, the move hugely increases the strength of the threat of Rh1. After 21...exd5 22.Rh1 Black had to give back one of his extra pieces, but his king was left so open that the white attack almost played itself. It just needed one more good move to expose how precarious Black's game really was.

After 26.Qf4! White had planned to meet 26...fxg6 with 27.Rhe1! when Rde8 loses to Rxe7+ and Qf6+. With 26...Kxg6 losing the bishop to Qe4+, he was left with the desperate-looking 26...f5, which gave White the time to get his queen and rook in the right order on the h-file. The final king hunt led to White regaining all his sacrificed material with interest.

White: S Dvoirlis
Black: A Khalilman
1 e4 c5 20 g4 Nd4
2 Nf3 d6 21 Nd5 exd5
3 d4 cxd4 22 Rh1 Nh5
4 Nxd4 Nf6 23 gxf5 Kxg6
5 Nc3 Nc6 24 exd5 Bd7
6 Bg5 e6 25 hxg5 Rh8
7 Qd2 Be7 26 Qf4 f5
8 0-0-0 Nxd4 27 Rh6 Rde8
9 Qxd4 0-0 28 Qh2 Bxg5
10 f4 Qa5 29 Rh7+ Rxf7
11 Bb4 Bd7 30 Qxd7+ Kf6
12 Bb3 Bc6 31 Qf7+ Ke5
13 Rb1 Rf8 32 Qxd7 Re7
14 Kb1 Rxd8 33 Re1+ Kf4
15 Qf2 h6 34 Rf1+ Kg3
16 h4 Qc5 35 Qxh5 Qc3
17 Qg5 Nh5 36 a3 Re5
18 Qh2 bxc5 37 Qd8 resigns
19 hxg5 g6

Concise crossword



- ACROSS
- Supernatural beings (7)
 - Whip marks (5)
 - Bring to bear (5)
 - Attribute (7)
 - Bring into agreement (9)
 - Eggs (3)
 - Calls on (6)
 - Contract (6)
 - High ball (3)
 - Trile (9)
 - Large tent (7)
 - Up to the time that (5)
 - Fashion (5)
 - Intrinsic quality (7)
- DOWN
- New (5)
 - Cold sweet (3)
 - Entrance hymn (7)
 - Spangle (6)
 - Move to and fro (5)
 - Enmity (9)
 - Songbird (7)
 - Soft fruit (9)
 - Books (7)
 - Distinctions (7)
 - Plan (6)
 - Accommodate (5)
 - Dig (5)
 - Metallic element (3)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1. Weigh, 4. Airhead (Wyn ahead), 8. Antenna, 9. Meats, 10. Pivots, 11. Kingdom, 13. Reel, 15. Revolve, 17. Lured, 20. Feet, 23. Old boy, 24. Plum, 26. Lick. DOWN: 2. Imbibe, 3. Potted, 5. Eaten, 6. UWN, 7. Wrapper, 2. Intro, 3. Harshard, 4. Ale, 8. 5. Rongau, 6. Eucalypt, 9. Dromed, 12. Lide, 14. Berry, 16. Subcase, 18. Alfable, 19. Li, 20. 21. Exped, 22. Strip, 23. Ouvre, 24. Ghil.

Bridge Alan Hiron

Love all; dealer South

North
♠ 10 8 5
♥ K 8
♦ A K J 9 3
♣ 9 5 3

West
♠ 7 4
♥ Q 9 5 2
♦ 10 8
♣ Q 10 8 7 4

East
♠ 9 6 2
♥ A J 10 4
♦ 7 6 5
♣ A K 2

South
♠ A K Q J 3
♥ 7 6 3
♦ Q 4 2
♣ J 6

"I know that I could have beaten ♠S if I had led a heart," said West at the end of this deal. "But wasn't there a case for you playing back ♠2 at trick two? Then I can win and push a heart through."

"I would look really foolish if declarer turned up with the queen," replied East, and there the matter rested. Any thoughts?

Perplexity

Mixed doubles:
Real tremor toying tit bag chimera.

The above sentence hides three connected one-word answers. To find them, you must group the six words into three pairs, then rearrange the letters within each pair. A prize of the *Chambers 21st Dictionary* will be awarded to the sender of the first correct answer we open on 19 June. Answers to: Perplexity, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

South opened 1♣. North responded 2♦, and South rebid his spades rather than offer support ("100 for honours, partner!") North raised to 3♠ and South went on to game, although a pass would have escaped criticism. West led ♣7. East won with ♣K, cashed the ace, and led a third club. South ruffed, drew trumps, and lost only a heart at the end.

West was right: there was a good case for East returning ♣2 at the trick two. If West's lead is a true fourth highest, he began with ♣QJ87(x), ♣J1087(x) or ♣QJ1087(x). Against a suit contract, he would surely have led the queen and the jack respectively from the first two, so the lead strongly suggests that he does indeed hold the queen.

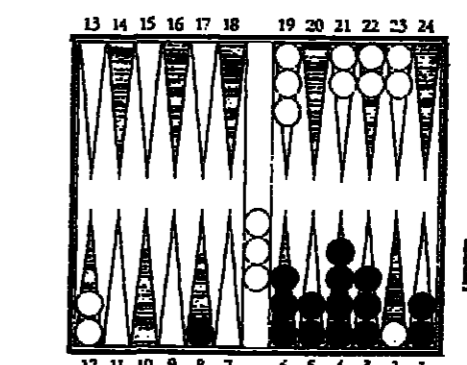
So there was no real danger of South winning an undeserved trick with the queen. West, on lead with ♣Q, would easily realise what was expected of him.

17 May answers:

Mansfield Park, Jane Austen
Winner: Betty Mann (S Harrow)

Last week's puzzle ... was more difficult than some of you thought. The object is to fit the numbers 1 to 19 into the hexagonal array so that every line parallel to any side adds to the same sum. That's six lines each of 3 and 4 numbers and three of five. Entries still open until 12 June.

Backgammon Chris Bray



I was happily playing a quick game against Jellyfish the other evening. For once I had the better of the silicon coelenterate and was on my way to a gammon. I rolled 6-3, quickly played 8/5, 6/off and was stunned when it beeped to tell me there was a better move!

"What do you mean, a better move?" I enquired.

"Quite so, my dear chap," it replied. "Have you considered the advantages of playing 8/2, 5/2?"

"How can I consider the advantages of a move I haven't even seen?"

"As a mortal you have, as is usual with your species, played the first move that entered your head."

"I am doing my best to make sure that I always consider at least two moves on any play," I replied somewhat huffily. "In this case, I didn't see the play because it didn't fit my model of the game. Leaving a shot for no purpose – how can that possibly be right?"

"The advantages become apparent with a little thought. As you are not blessed with a neural net for a brain, I suppose I must explain. Most important, I will never be able to make your 2-point. With your move I will gain a lot of equity whenever I manage to anchor on your 2-point and win quite a few games by hitting a late shot. Secondly, I will have four men on the bar as opposed to three with your play, and consequently you will win more backgammons."

"But what if you throw a five?"

"You humans would fear your own shadows. You will have one man to bring in against a four-point board while I still have to enter three men against a five-point board: you are still a massive favourite."

"OK, I'm convinced – I made a mistake."

"Indeed you did, now how about another few games at, shall we say, £50 per point?"



John Walsh meets Jerry Lewis

Damn Yankees opened at the Adelphi two nights ago. Forty-two years after its first appearance on Broadway, the Faustian-baseball musical picked up the kind of rave reviews ("Indecently entertaining" - *Telegraph*, "The songs are a joy for ever" - *Daily Mail*) you'd thought were the exclusive property of *Gypsy* and *Dolls*. London audiences are being weirdly entranced by Fifties American vaudeville at the moment - and so is America: *Damn Yankees* has been on the road since February 1995, playing in 50-odd cities from Chicago to Fort Lauderdale and raking in \$47million (so far). London is their 57th venue. The travelling circus of 65, including musicians, sound men, lighting crew and the 23-strong cast, are committed to taking their jolly tale of the Devil, the baseball nut and Lola the stripper all over the world. After London, they've got Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan...

In the middle of this Tin Pan Alley juggernaut, this kinetic ironclad extravaganza, this rumbling, crowd-pleasing caravanserai is Jerry Lewis, about whom the reviews were guarded. They all praised his spectacular 15-minute stand-up routine in the second half, but otherwise tended to voice the same fear: "Lewis appears to be cruising on reputation alone" (*Telegraph*); "the smugness of a star smoothly coasting on his legend" (*Independent*). And you think what legend? What reputation? For Jerry Lewis is one of the classic incarnations of the performer who lost the plot - the screwball who went out of fashion like *that* in the Sixties as if coshed by fate, the comedian whom nobody found funny any more, apart from a lot of grim French intellectuals. He was the clown with the crossed eyes, gurning features, rolling tongue and spasmodic limbs, who dwelt wholly, it seemed, in the realm of slapstick, double-take and pratfall when not drooling over girls and waxing sentimental over small children. *The Bell Boy*, *The Ladies' Man*, *The Nutty Professor*, *Which Way to the Front* - he was nothing if not prolific (as actor, writer and director); but his prolificacy, his exuberance, his infantilism just stopped communicating with critics, backers, audiences. He had a comeback when Martin Scorsese cast him in *The King of Comedy*, as Langford, an ageing comedian with a cold heart. Lewis radiated such contempt for the film's demented, emulatory fans (played by Robert de Niro and Sandra Bernhard), it felt as if years of neglect and bitterness were being exorcised. But when you meet him in the flesh you realise that there's a lot still there.

He's a very furious man. Chunky of torso, pouchy of cheek and curiously simian in posture, he regards you from under alarmingly hooded eyelids as if he hates you and everything you stand for. In between sentences, the lower plate of his dentures detaches itself from its moorings and wanders around his mouth. He alternates a look of fathomless disgust with an expression of bafflement, as if you are making no sense. He talks in long, growly, explanatory sentences like a man who isn't used to being interrupted.

"Yeah, it's the first time I've ever been an actor playing a part on a stage, although - of course - I've been in front of live audiences all my life. But it's totally different in theatre. But it's the relationship the audience hears and feels the relationship we have on stage. They don't turn to each other and say, 'They're having a wonderful time up there' - but they feel it. And at the end this very proper audience, they lose their proper, and they're screaming and stamping and applaud-

Nutty... King of comedy (aged 9)

ing." He is keen to play down any notion that this is a star vehicle for his screwball self. "I will not go for a cheap joke. The integrity of this play is very important to me. If Jerry sneaks in somewhere, it's only in places where it doesn't encumber the plot." Encumber? "It's a very important word, when you're dealing with 30 other people on stage at the same time. There's moments when you feel that little nerve button and think, Oh Christ I could go for that. But I got other performers out there. We have a play to tell and music to sing. I'm the only one who knows what discipline it takes..."

We talked about vaudeville, and the extremely dead concept of the all-round "entertainer" who could sing, dance, tell jokes and perform in the exhaustively hyperactive style of Al Jolson and Danny Kaye. "You'll probably hate this, because he's home-grown," said Lewis, "but Tony Newley is the greatest vaudevillean that ever lived. He's a great performer, a great entertainer. But he was looked down on by many of his audiences because he was so goddam cocksure of how good he was. They would have liked him to be a little more humble about it. Lewis's interest in Newley has a distinct element of self-identification about it. "I thought he had this marvellous... esteem for himself. Jesus Christ, most people love to see someone enjoy what they do. But there's something about the home-grown that changes that concept. We have it in America. I am more appreciated in foreign countries by the critics..." Spotting that he was in danger of saying that his home audience didn't care for him, he abruptly changed tack: "...but when it comes to audiences, er, American audiences have been awfully good to me. I've been in front of them for 65 years. The Press have always asked, 'How do you feel when you go to France and Germany and Italy and they carry on the way they do. I say, 'They do the same thing in the United States. It's only the critics in the US who think I should be put to sleep. The critics in Europe think what I do is genius.'"

They do indeed. And it's not just the

Cahiers du Cinema crowd, who adopted Lewis as a great director in the late Fifties. Other directors revere him. Sometimes they offer him advice. "I was in Paris once, rehearsing for the opening night at the Olympia. I was singing 'Rock-a-Bye Baby' and someone had suggested singing the second chorus in French, so I was trying it. Jean-Luc Godard had been spending the day with me. He called me over and said [adopts thick Clouseau accent]: 'Are you kray-zee? To seeng in Fraynch? You stupide bastarde, zey will keel you.' When he said that, a light went on in my head..." More often they make out-



genuinely big statements. "Lewis should be examined and praised as a film-maker who made five or six brilliant movies," wrote Bertrand Tavernier in the *Guardian* last year. Many stories are told of the chronic mis-match between Lewis's more pretentious fans and Lewis's own unpretentious deflations. Such as the symposium in Paris when he was congratulated by a voluble *cinéaste* for his visual jokes with fat ladies in *The Bell Boy*. Not only is it a trenchant satire on Western, consumerism, said the fan, it's also a swinging attack on American patriarchy and the ethos of... "Fat women walk funny," Lewis replied shortly. "That's the point." Did he marvel at such pretentiousness? "Everybody's seen the same things the French have seen," he said. "But the French convolute it. I was sitting there one night with Francois Truffaut, in front of

the Cinematheque, and he said to me, 'Jerry, zer reason zat joke is so good in that feelm is that, when you were small, your muzzer must 'ave...' and I said stop, Francois, just stop it. My mother did *shit*. I just wrote a great visual joke and shot it. Where did it come from? I don't know, but I doubt it was her womb." Lewis's whole body shook, somewhere between irritation and laughter. "I've been arguing with them for 40 years," he concludes wearily. "They always need to understand more. It's their culture. They need definitions. They need to know intentions. They want to know where it comes from."

Left: Jerry Lewis with Dean Martin

What I do and have always done is have a wonderful time not allowing the child in me to die. I'm nine. I'll always be nine

It comes from simple. Simple is magic. Simple is wonderful.

Lewis himself comes from New Jersey, where he was born Joseph Levitch in 1926. His parents were entertainers on the "Borscht Belt" (named for the number of East European *émigrés*) in the Catskill Mountains. Lewis speaks of his parents with the slightly hysterical enthusiasm of a hero-worshipping son who didn't get to know his parents well. "My Dad was incredible. I was sitting in front of the stalls every night. He was Jolson, he was Eddie Cantor, he was everyone rolled in one. The funniest man I've ever seen in my life. And the handsomest. And he sang better and danced better and mimed better... He did it all." His mother was piano accompanist, arranger and musical director to her husband. They were a performing family. "One hotel would pay my

Dad \$25 a week, with room and board for him, his wife and son. If he could perform in another hotel after the show, he'd get another \$8, \$2 for my mother and \$3 for the kid. It was \$13 gig down the road twice a week. So at the age of five, they put me in a tux. How can you fail? A five-year-old in a tux?" Lewis's career famously began at this tender age, singing "Buddy Can You Spare a Dime" for the supper crowd, but he also remembers it as the start of his comedy career. "I don't recall singing the number, but I recall taking a bow, because my foot went off the stage and into the footlights and the bulb broke. I was scared, but it was the first laugh I ever got from an audience."

A pratfall might be written off by some as an accident. It became Jerry Lewis's life. "My mom had four sisters, and my dad had two sisters, and all of them thought they had created some kind of a nerd that needed a keeper," he recalls. "Because I had the desire to do the silliest things to make other people laugh. Whether I needed the attention, because my mom and dad were always away from me, or I was covering up the fact that I had a hole in my sock and didn't want them to see, I don't know. You can psychoanalyse the why of what you do. But I do to this day get the greatest joy out of watching someone smile or doing something as silly as you please to give them a laugh."

One of Lewis's more emetic refrains is about the child inside him. "What I do and have always done," he says, "is have a wonderful time not allowing the child in me to die. I'm nine. I'll always be nine..." Since he himself is now 71, and since he has been responsible for making several films as *auteur complet* - having complete control over every aspect of the production - it's hard to reconcile the control-freak in his nature with the hyper-adrenalinated kid in front of the camera. Was he actually two people?

"It's a very important question," he concedes, "though it has nothing to do with schizophrenia. Let me ask you: Do you think you're sitting at this very

moment with the wacko who appears on screen?" Good Lord no, I said. "Right. You're not. You're sitting with the guy who writes for him, the guy who cares for him and who must protect his best interests. I can't allow him to get any older than nine; he'd only encumber my work. When I make a film, I have to make everyone understand that we must keep him out of it and build a solid foundation so that, when we let him loose, everything will be perfect. He knows he can't fuck with the intellect of the guy who writes the stuff. He knows that I need him not to get involved in that. I need him just to come and play and get as silly as he can in what we have structured." Noticing that, by this time, I was considering making a dash for the door, he added: "Some people think you're fuckin' insane and say, 'How can you do that?' But it's really very easy."

Listening to Lewis talking about his screen persona as some demented (and imprisoned) kid brother, you realise what it is about this talented and vigorous man that's so hard to love: it's his brand of sentimental bullying, that makes too many demands on human sympathy. It's of a piece with his confession about comedy: "It's the most selfless act in the eyes of the laughter, but it's the most selfish act in the eyes of the guy who's doing it." Lewis has always been a manipulator of laughter rather than a charmer, a man who'd rather belabour you with a club than tickle your fancy. One thinks how relieved the film world was when his last directorial project collapsed from lack of finance - *The Day the Clown Cried*, about a clown striking up a friendship with children in Auschwitz. And though his influence is still strong (Jim Carrey in *Liar Liar* is one natural descendant, as was Steve Martin's funny walk in *All of Me*; Lewis was executive producer of Eddie Murphy's remake of *The Nutty Professor*) it's easy to think he's in the safest possible billet between now and the new Millennium - acting a role in a play, with just a single burst of "Jerry Lewis" a night, a brilliant 15-minute "letting out" of his crazed, manipulative *alter ego*.

Grown men and grown women cried this week at David Bowie's semi-private gig at the ill-named Hanover Grand in London. Seven hundred of us, packed into a tiny room, experienced the rare pleasure of having a genuine superstar within spitting distance. When Bowie came on and went straight into "Quicksand" - yes you do know it, "Quicksand" - yes you do know it, the one on *Hunky Dory* with eat your heart out Spice Girls lyrics like "I'm tethered to the logic of homo sapiens" - everyone began a highly esoteric sing-along and tears flowed.

Maybe a few were tears of pain. My left leg could not share in the undoubted delights of "Jean Genie" and "Queen Bitch" or even the arguable delights of the new stuff because it had cramp. Even the illicit thrills of a secret gig could not disguise how wretchedly rock fans are treated at rock con-

Rock concerts that drive a lad insane

certs everywhere. Queue in the street even though you have tickets and the doors were meant to have opened half an hour ago, stand sardine-style in sweltering conditions for an hour watching roadies touch amplifiers and gaze intently at wires - I mean what do they actually do that couldn't have been done during the afternoon - then have to leave early because the concert actually ends an hour after the last train.

And this was one of the good ones. Rock concerts obey none of the rules of other art forms. Starting times printed on tickets are a joke; supposedly spontaneous encores are planned down to the last detail; usually when booking you are not told which row, block

or even part of the arena you are in, and worst of all there's barely a decent, comfortable, acoustically good rock venue in the country, one that can allow those who want to stand to stand, and those old enough to remember Ziggy Stardust to sit. The Shepherd's



Bush Empire in London is a rare exception, managing to fulfil most of those criteria. It is astonishing that the one arts award not yet considered by the national lottery is for money for a national rock venue. We lead the world in rock music, it now

attracts at least two generations of fans, so why not a national venue on the lines of some theatres, which would have a main house for the big gigs and studio spaces for the smaller concerts and David Bowie's post-birthday bashes for his fans? I know it's unspeakably

unhip to admit that at most rock concerts you're uncomfortable and can't actually see or hear very well, but next time take a look at the expressions on the faces around you.

The English National Opera usually has a large press conference to launch the programme for its new season. But this year there was nothing. The programme was simply slipped out under plain wrapper this week. Surely the genially combative Dennis Marks, ENO's general director, wasn't worried by the prospect of a few awkward questions on such prickly subjects as using lottery money to move out of the much-loved London Coliseum.

As it happens, the forthcoming season is one that the ENO can actually crow about. Not only is the company welcoming back several old stars, it is also welcoming several new directors including the talented theatre director Jude Kelly directing her first opera, Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*. And it is actually reducing seat prices in the stalls and the balcony. Mr Marks should be less sensitive. There are a lot of good things happening at the Coliseum. It's just a pity he's determined to leave it.

Bob Dylan is out of hospital and even promising a new album this autumn. Now that he has introduced the world to his rare disease, histoplasmosis, I suggest this be the title of the new album. The word has a certain ring to it, and with Dylan's elongated nasal vowels could take on cataclysmic qualities as the title-track.

arts & books

All played out in black and white



Have they got the one? Effortful expressions from six hopeful entrants in the 10th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, climaxing tomorrow in Fort Worth, Texas

Music and sport: brain versus brawn? Not really: the old contrast is blurring, nowhere more than at the piano. It's partly to do with spiralling keyboard athletics, but mostly thanks to competitions, which blend beauty contest and prize fight with the exhilaration of the Derby. And competitions are proliferating like mad: there was one in Meknes last year, there's one in Macao next month, and there are over 100 regular jousts in Europe alone. Ever since Mozart trounced Clementi, and Beethoven drove his chief rival howling from the room, joust has been the *mot juste* for this unforgiving aesthetic combat.

This week the jousting has been in Fort Worth, the Texas cow-town which, every four years, hosts the glitziest piano competition of them all. When the youngest winner of the Van Cliburn is announced tomorrow, he – I don't think the solitary she in the final has the ghost of a chance – will walk off with a cash prize of \$20,000, plus a two-year concert programme worth all the money in the world to anyone playing this desperately overcrowded game. The attendant media circus may be small by Olympic standards, but it has Olympic intensity, with live television and radio coverage, documentaries galore, and a press corps chasing every scrap of gossip – pianistic or personal – like a plague of locusts.

The competitors have made their job easy, coming fully equipped with colourful backgrounds, off-beat hobbies and weird superstitions. The Israeli favourite sits on a shekel when he competes; one of the Russians makes sure his wife is holding a lucky troll while he plays. Two of the Russian contestants are married to one another, and even chose to play the same piece; the fact that the husband got knocked out in the first round, while the wife has made it to the final, has generated miles

of breathless, *Hello-style* copy, hardly hampered by their willingness to indulge in photogenic clinches at the merest flash of a camera.

But the press also needs tears, and tears it has got. Stanislav Ioudenitch, from Tashkent, played a sensational first round and was tipped to win. He then poured boiling water over his left hand while trying to make tea at six in the morning, and is now out of the race: Freudian slips seldom come this glaring. Ioudenitch is studying in Italy, has not seen his baby daughter for a year, and is unable to contact his phoneless wife in Moscow. He seems astonishingly cheerful nevertheless, and has become the good cause of the week: everyone wants to help him.

In Fort Worth, that "everyone" means hundreds of housewives, teachers and bankers who give their services free to make the competition run smoothly: it means the "host moms" who harbour the contestants; it also means scores of seriously rich patrons, for whom this quadrennial bash offers a chance for some competitively showy Southern hospitality. I went to a "lake-party" at a sleepy hamlet called Dossier Cove: the invitation said "casual", but I've seldom seen such a riot of chiffon silk and heavy jewellery. The principal guest came in his helicopter: Van Cliburn himself, immaculate in DJ – he never wears anything else – and holding court like a nabob.

Van – a usefully resonant Christian name – neither created this competition, nor has any hand in running it, but he is in every sense its presiding genius. It was set up in his honour when he astounded the world by winning the inaugural Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow in 1958. The

Russians took this lanky Baptist boy to their hearts: New York gave him a ticker-tape welcome home. He went on to pioneer the cultural-diplomacy game, playing for presidents and foreign heads of state, and was by any standards – the live recordings prove it – a magnificent exponent of the Romantic repertoire. In his forties, he suddenly quit for what he describes as a "sabbatical" and, though he still does occasional concerts, he's now a semi-recluse, sharing his mansion with six Steinways, a Bechstein, a dog, and the ghost of his adored mother Rildia Bee, who taught him piano from the age of three, dominated his life, and died three years ago, aged 97.

For all its razzmatazz, the Cliburn doesn't have a great record for spotting talent: with the exception of Radu Lupu, Cristina Ortiz and Barry Douglas, most of the starry names that grace its lists had already been spotted elsewhere. And some of its prize-winners have turned into prize embarrassments. At this year's opening bash, Alexei Sultanov – gold medalist two competitions ago – lurched to the microphone and declared that the world contained just three "supreme beings": Van Cliburn, Horowitz, and himself. The mike was wrenched away, but he lurched after it and continued in similarly drunken vein. "The trouble with some of these Russians," a jury member confided to me, "is that they can't handle success."

"Musicians shouldn't have to compete," says Richard Rodzinski, the Cliburn Competition director. "But since competition is part of their lives – from music school, to getting jobs, to keeping those jobs in an over-saturated market – what we do is

not so heinous." The Cliburn, he argues, is a necessary showcase for young pianists, and a way of finding those with the stamina to succeed. Competitions, he adds, are starting to replace straight recitals – "with the extra element of suspense". And he's downplaying the notion of rank by talking of a Cliburn "festival": playing here, he says, is a lot less stressful than playing at Carnegie Hall.

But stress there certainly is, as Louise Canafax, the "backstage mom", confirms. She sits in the wings with her armoury of bandages, antibiotics, nail-clippers, and headache pills, plus honey and sugar for energy, and dispenses a graciously Southern brand of stress-therapy. Do people ever get out of control?

"Well, one girl wasn't happy with her performance, and left the stage in the middle of a piece." Did she finally continue? "We had a little difficulty getting her back on. And when she'd finished, the jury said it might have been better if she hadn't." Where, I enquire, is that girl now? "I'd rather not say." Sounds like we're getting into grim stuff here.

As one watches the semi-finalists going through their paces, one realises how gruelling it is: a full-scale chamber work; a 75-minute recital performed without a break; and two concertos on the trot for the final. What are the jury looking for? "The important artist, who can look into a score and find things we have not heard before," says Menahem Pressler, one of the world's most eminent chamber musicians. "Have we got the one? That is always our question. We didn't find him last time around."

A solo recital may lay talent bare, but what can

we learn from a concerto? Ian Hobson, the only Brit on the jury, says the main thing a concerto reveals is negative. "With so much riding on it, and an orchestra to dominate, can you avert disaster?"

So have we got the one? I've seen an exquisitely talented musician crash in flames when nerves got to her, and I've heard nine young players who would not be out of place at the Wigmore Hall. This year's crop were selected from live auditions held all round the globe, and the standard is unusually high. Like other observers, I was shocked that the finalists did not include a marvellous young Russian called Viktor Chestopal. I was also shocked that they did, on the other hand, include Miss Skanavi, whose playing – let's be honest – is less distinguished than her looks.

I don't think Jon Nakamatsu (America's last hope) or Italy's Filippo Gamba – who looks like Brahms, and plays Brahms as though he'd composed the music himself – will win, but three other finalists would each make an exhilarating choice. Jan Gottlieb Jiracek is a German crowd-puller who can produce both wizardry and true musical wisdom. Aviram Reichert, a debonair Israeli with a passion for Formula One, is an impeccable classicist in the grand tradition. And Yakov Kasman from Moscow is a keyboard magician whose Haydn, Schumann, and Prokofiev are alike masterly. He's an untamed outsider, a born showman with a furious will to win – and, if he does so, fireworks are guaranteed. If I had a vote, he'd get it.

Van Cliburn Competition website: <http://www.cliburn.com> or <http://www.audionet.com> 'Van Cliburn in Moscow', live recordings of Rachmaninov's Paganini Rhapsody and Brahms's Piano Concerto No 2, is on RCA Victor Red Seal (09026-62695-2)

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12

David Benedict WEEK IN REVIEW

overview

critical view

our view

on view

EXCELLENT

GOOD

OK

POOR

DEADLY

KEY

THE PLAY	THE BALLET	THE FILM
Damn Yankees	Swan Lake	Crash
Jack O'Brien directs the Broadway revival of the classic Fifties musical, book by George Abbott, score by Adler and Ross, in which small-town Joe sells his soul to the devil (Jerry Lewis) in return for becoming a hero who bats his local baseball team to victory.	Derek Deane choreographs the world's favourite ballet at the Royal Albert Hall, in the round, complete with 60 swans. Patrick Woodroffe provides this ENB production with a carpet of dry ice. The Kiev's Altyntai Asymuratova dances Odette opposite Roberto Bolle's Siegfried.	JG Ballard's 1973 updating of the timeless connection between sex and death brought notoriously to the screen by David "Dead Ringers, Naked Lunch" Cronenberg. James Spader and Deborah Unger star.
Paul Taylor declared "Damn Yankees is damn good." "This exuberant revival proves you can dance your way to success... A triumph of energy," applauded the FT. "Fails to honour the dark side of the show... but the songs of Adler and Ross are a joy," said <i>The Mail</i> . "That rare thing, a musical with both good tunes and a decent plot... it's strong on team spirit but lacks focus," observed the <i>Standard</i> . "This ludicrously enjoyable revival transports the audience back to a happier, more innocent and possibly wiser age," thrilled <i>The Daily Telegraph</i> . "A good example of the middle-ranking, mid-Fifties American musical: not wildly exciting but harmlessly pleasant," claimed <i>The Guardian</i> . "It's irresistible," raved <i>The Times</i> .	Louise Levene was thoroughly charmed. "At the climax to the ballroom pas de deux a shudder of triumph ran across her (Altyntai's) torso and a thrill of pleasure ran through the audience." "Who could resist the message of a stage full of beautiful people dancing their hearts out?" wondered <i>The Mail</i> . <i>The Telegraph</i> , for one. Its critic sneered: "If ballet has to sell its masterpieces down the river like this to get a new audience, is that audience, frankly, worth having?" "It works so well that we seem to be seeing <i>Swan Lake</i> with fresh eyes," disagreed its sister paper, <i>The Sunday Telegraph</i> . "Act II's white pas de deux is almost invisible amid the clutter of swans," worried <i>The Times</i> .	Adam Mars-Jones felt it fall short of expectations. "A remarkably uninvolved experience." "A cerebral film whose ambitions one respects, but whose pervasive nihilism makes it hard to like," sighed <i>The Telegraph</i> . "The glacial, rigidly stylised mood is so omnipresent that it grows to swamp any element of drama," frowned <i>The Times</i> . "Turns the story from high porn into high geometry... For peace on our roads, better to ban alcohol. For peace on our minds, better to ban the <i>Daily Mail</i> ," growled the FT. "Will encourage those who have a sadistic sexual bent to feel that they are not alone," thundered <i>The Mail</i> . "Popularising and depicting some of the grossest sexual aberrations imaginable... A work of subversive pornography," snarled the <i>Standard</i> .
Adelphi Theatre, London WC2. Booking: 0171-344 0055	Royal Albert Hall, London until 11 June 11. Tickets 0171-589 8212	Cert 18, 104 mins. On selected release, excluding Westminster and parts of Surrey where it has been banned.
There's more life in this boisterous, high-spirited show than the whole of <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> .	The ENB's <i>Swan Lake</i> reminds us there's more to this ballet than white tutus and dry ice.	Required viewing for wannabe key players those on the media dinner party circuit.



Paradis
Edward Sorensen

هنا من الاصل

The bells! The bells!



Phil Johnson hears house music with a difference at the Salisbury Festival from, among others, Robert Fripp, left

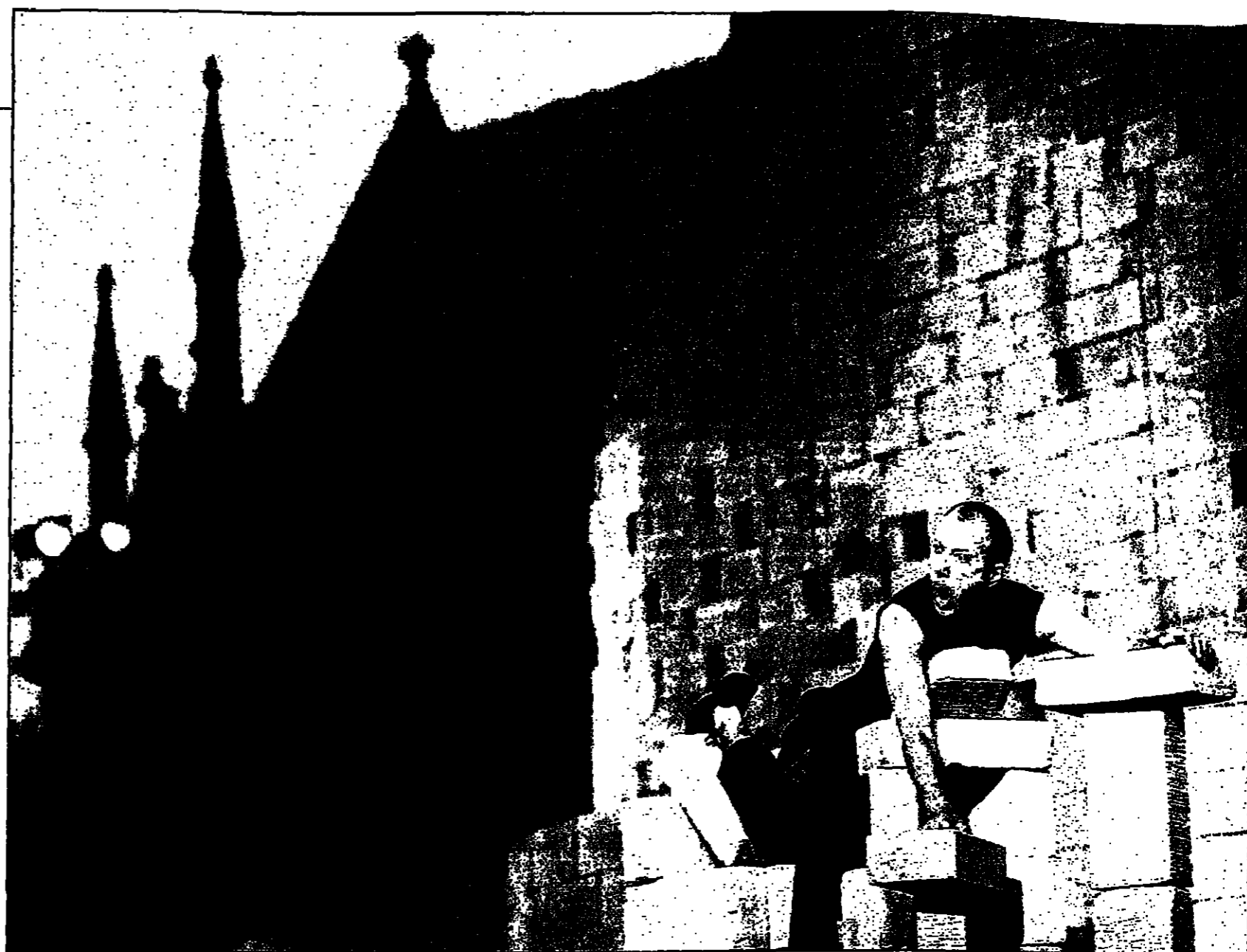
In Salisbury library, the fiction stacks on the ground floor are intersected by the bulbous white cabinets of old, streamlined refrigerators. Pull downwards on the chrome handles and the doors open to reveal the surprising contents inside: plastic dinosaurs on skateboards; a ship's lavatory complete with the sound of tape-recorded seagulls; a fridge inside a fridge; a hall of mirrors; a puppet show. No one seems to take a blind bit of notice of them. Pensioners carry their Jack Higgins or Barbara Cartland to the issue desk, and swotting students come and go, too busy for the delights of *Les Frigos*, an installation by French artists Opus. Perhaps they've already had their fill as the fridges are now into their second week, the dinosaurs approaching their best-by date.

But on the grand green of the cathedral – which for many is Salisbury, more or less – the studied nonchalance of the natives and the daily tour-bus quota of continental visitors is hardly less notable. In a fenced-off space adjoining the cathedral, Station House Opera are in the middle of a technical rehearsal. It isn't possible to ignore them – after all, there's 10,000 whopping great breeze-blocks piled high to form the stage-set for their symbolic reenactment of the building of the cathedral, and weird, unearthly sounds are emerging from the speakers – but there's barely a rubber-necking passer-by to be seen.

The sculptures by Elizabeth Frink that are dotted about the green attract a lit-

tle more interest, and their giant genitals have provoked a moral panic of sorts over the preceding weeks, with sundry nuns, official cathedral guides and the over-cloistered inhabitants of the close evidently scandalised by the faithfully rendered cocks and balls. June Osborne, canon treasurer of the cathedral, has gallantly held her own end up, defending the Michelangelo-esque accuracy of the bronze bits, though in a scheduled address to the schoolchildren of Marlborough College, she could get no nearer to the nub of the matter than a reference to "thighs". As has been widely reported, local kids have been less circumspect, using cover of darkness to decorate the figures with condoms and nappies, though now they are in their natural state once again, as photographers wait patiently for a mouth-agape nun to enter the frame.

Within a minute of entering the office of festival director Helen Marriage, outrage rears its ugly head once again, perfectly on cue. It's a thundering phone-call from Sir Edward Heath, the cathedral close's most famous resident, complaining about parking restrictions to be enforced by today's closing fireworks concert on the green, given by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Sir Ted is upset that "his people" will be inconvenienced. Marriage thinks that perhaps he would have liked to conduct the concert himself, though he gets his go at Delius in the cathedral next month. There's already been an irate call that



Edification and hollow edifice: Station House Opera's failed attempt to rebuild Salisbury Cathedral

PHOTO: SOLENT NEWS

morning from a local Freemason, angry at Marriage's accusation in the *Daily Telegraph* that the men-in-pinnies are responsible for putting a stop to a proposed rock concert that was to have happened at a far-away airfield. If only she hadn't chosen the *Telegraph*, you feel, the Masons would never have noticed.

In the cathedral itself, technicians are setting up the equipment for a sound installation by the guitarist Robert Fripp, who is something of a local celeb, living nearby with his wife Toyah Wilcox. This has attracted a clearly identifiable audience of outsiders, a bright splurge of ethnic trouser-problems clashing with the school uniforms of children with work-sheets, the turquoise-jacketed official tour-guides, the black-supplined vergum-security men and the armies of baggy French kiddies that together make up an average afternoon's cathedral population.

When, at 2.30pm, Fripp arrives and plugs himself in, the audience sits obediently at his feet like medieval pilgrims

anticipating a glimpse of the true cross. When, after a minute or so, Fripp gets up again and walks around the nave to inspect the sound, which, of course, continues without him – the audience looks slightly alarmed. At length, Fripp – who looks remarkably like a 19th-century curate himself – returns to his guitar and the pilgrims are happy once again. It's a wonderfully successful experiment, the music as delicate as a glass harmonica, with ambient wisps of sound echoing through the cathedral in chorus-effects of bells and voices. We sit and listen in silent communion, as schoolkids try to measure the height of columns and solemn vergers patrol the aisles, hands held behind their backs, black skirts trailing.

Fripp continues for two and a half hours, in the first of what will be four afternoons' work. At Islington's Union Chapel last Saturday – from where many of the faithful have followed him – he did a stretch of eight hours without a break until the crew felt guilty – so a technician tells me – at nipping off to eat their sand-

wiches. The sound is designed for a four-way quadrophonic mix over six speakers and, as the performance goes on, it seems to develop a life of its own, the whole building resonating with oohs, aahs and bleeps as Fripp adds layer upon layer of fresh textures, like a sonic plasterer artexing the cathedral's ceiling.

There may have been some symbolic artexing at the grand opening performance of Station House Opera on Wednesday night, but it was difficult to be sure. Indeed, exactly what was going on – never mind what it meant – remained a mystery for most of us. On paper, the continuous construction of a building with breeze-blocks might not sound like much in the way of a performance, but the idea was infinitely more entertaining than the actual event. A group of men and women dressed in vaguely medieval costumes heaved the blocks about jauntily, but they mainly seemed to be moving the same blocks from one place to another, and it was very hard work. A rock band and a choir

accompanied the action, such as it was, but it took such a long time to move the blocks that the music would run out while the work continued. At one point, someone high up in the structure seemed to be shouting "Over and over again" over and over again, but I couldn't swear to it.

The edifice itself was spectacular but it seemed perilously close to being jerry-built and occasionally blocks would crash to the ground and the operatives jump back in alarm. With no hard hats or safety footwear (for the performers, never mind the audience), one's natural concern was more for health and safety than art. All in all, it was just like having the builders in, and it seemed as if the work would never be finished; they were still hard at it when I left for last orders at a quarter to 11. Walking back through the cathedral close, I imagined I could hear Sir Edward Heath banging his head against the wall, over and over again.

Les Frigos 9.30am-4pm, Salisbury Library; festival ends today

Paradise regained in song and dance

Edward Seckerson and Louise Levene delight in Mark Morris's exuberant staging of Handel

Orchestral manoeuvres in the light

CLASSICAL Ravel Through the Looking-Glass LSO / André Previn Barbican Centre, London

Song and Dance. Handel after Milton according to Mark Morris. And that's colour and movement, rhythm and harmony, in the eye of the beholder. What you see is what you hear. What you see is more than you hear. And if the songs were to be silenced, the dancers would go on singing. Mark Morris has it every which way with his exuberant staging of Handel's *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*. Its purity of utterance is Handel's, its imagery vividly Miltonian, its capriciousness Morris's very own. It's one of his older pieces (it's been trail-blazing its way to London since 1988); it looks freshly composed. Freshly painted.

Colour and light. Imagine a series of abstract canvases, their composition dramatically transformed through the raising and lowering of flying panels, their colours mixed or subtly reconstructed with the introduction of tinted scrims. Imagine watching a Rothko evolve. Such is the effect of Adrienne Lobel's beautiful designs. They have a sensory tug all of their own. The sudden appearance of a stripe or a chequered overlay can work wonders. Christine Van Loon's costumes (a totally different palette of colours for parts one and two) set the tone for Morris's stage pictures.

Movement and expression. Sometimes Morris works in abstracts, his dancers busily traversing the stage like the notes on Handel's stave. The explosion of bodily mirth, the joyous jumping-bean effect of the final chorus – a riot of bright pastels (in itself a marvellous contradiction) gives free rein, and more, to the musical expression. Simple harmonies find simple – or solistic – patterns, all of it

fluid, phrased. And when "the pealing organ blows" at one point, the entire company, like everything in nature, stops to listen. A single moment of stillness, and what a moment. But Morris can be wickedly literal, too. Milton's pastoral heartlands, his flora and fauna, nymphs and shepherds, foxes and hounds (the hunt is a gas), birds and bees, are playfully enacted. And speaking of the birds and bees, the mating games reflect, as one might expect, the camp candour and innuendo of our times. There's even more than meets the eye and ear of that slap, kiss, and make-up routine for the chaps. The real Mark Morris keeps standing up.

Which is more than can be said for Handel on this occasion. Put it down to Jane Glover's lardish direction or the disadvantaged singers (their heads comically appearing over the parapet of the pit), but the musical contribution here sounded more like an afterthought, an accompaniment, than an organic part of the proceedings. Indeed, the visual information, the bodily rhythm and inflection, gave it an energy that was neither earned nor deserved. Susan Gritton and Janice Watson (birdsong especially affecting), Michael Chance (less than ideally ethereal), Ian Bostridge (pristine enunciation), and Ashley Holland (somewhat gusty) were serviceable enough, but rarely more. And since far too few of the words were audible (crucial to the fine detailing of Morris's work), hearing was seeing – and believing.

Further perfs today 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Mon and Tues (booking: 0171-632 8300)

Milton unconsciously reviewed this work 365 years ago when he talked of the giddy canning of a voice that runs through mazes "untwisting all the chains that tie the hidden soul of harmony". Mark Morris takes Milton, Handel and Blake and weaves the three into a glorious synaesthetic whole. At times scampering along with the literal meanings of Milton like a kitten with a ball of wool, Morris will suddenly kick the poem into touch and take a glorious detour into pure dance.

You don't often get to overdose on pleasure in the theatre, but everything about this production is right. The rectilinear grandeur of Adrienne Lobel's deceptively simple design slices up space with coloured scrims to create whole landscapes and moods, with rising and falling veils of colour altered imperceptibly by James F Ingalls's sublime lighting, which contrives to make the dancers glow like jewels in darkness.

Strong and eager, they dominate the high, wide and handsome Coliseum stage as their gaudy shapes form endless patterns that mercurially evolve like magic from a few unfussy folk measures. One marvels at these ensembles, lulled into thinking that the work's magnificence lies almost solely in the mastery placement of bodies in space, and then suddenly a solo among the chain of 30 dances takes your breath away.

All around is the sound of an audience inhaling deeply, filling its lungs with the oxygen of big ideas and old masters, feasting its eyes on a sneak preview of paradise.



LAURIE LEWIS

Ravel had as infallible a sense of what instruments can do as any composer, but it's curious that most of his orchestral works originated as music for the piano, whether for one or two players. Usually it's impossible to prefer either version, or, at least, it's a matter of taste, for Ravel is completely at home in each medium. Yet listening to André Previn conduct *Valses nobles et sentimentales* at the Barbican on Thursday, you might have hankered after the light airiness of the solo piano version, so thick and soupy was the sound of the strings. Previn relaxed the tempo of the second waltz to the point of indulgence, too, but anyway, the fleetness that a single player can achieve is far less likely with an entire orchestra.

La valse, on the other hand, seems more natural in its orchestral form than in Ravel's version for two pianos, because the way it conjures up a dazzling vision out of obscurity, or awakes the past through the mists of time, relies on the orchestra's infinite capacity to create illusion and mystery. Two pianos have to work very hard to do that. Still, that misty and mysterious atmosphere was lacking here, because the lights were too bright, musically speaking, from the very beginning.

Previn certainly seemed more at home in the much sharper, kaleidoscopic colouring of Ravel's opera *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, which sets a children's fable by Colette. Perhaps Ravel wouldn't have cared very

much about its naive moral, but its evocation of a child's make-believe world inspired the same kind of exquisite orchestral invention he showed in the fairy tales of *Ma mère l'Oye*. In the opera, with a sharply defined sequence of events, Ravel didn't have to build up symphonic steam, so he could revel in selecting fastidiously the most ravishing and transparent effects. If that suggests the music is merely effective, it's no more nor less so than Schoenberg's evocation of adult nightmares in *Erwartung*. The danger for Ravel, though, was cuteness, with singers pretending to be cats and frogs, and a woman pretending to be a horrid little boy who gets his come-uppance.

Ravel cast him as a mezzo, the conventional register for trouser roles, if not for small brats, and that suggests the young man the boy will, presumably, grow into, even though his / her final utterance is "Maman!" – a sigh of relief after his ordeal. Pamela Helen Stephen was clean-cut and steady, above all young and fresh without being too pert. Anne-Marie Owens was a good matronly contrast as the boy's mother. The American coloratura Elizabeth Futral was bright but also sensuous in her triple role of Fire, Princess and Nightingale, with the rest of the cast, including David Sharper, kaleidoscopic colouring of Ravel's opera *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, which sets a children's fable by Colette. Perhaps Ravel wouldn't have cared very

Adrian Jack

The trip of the iceberg

Lisa St Aubin de Terán joins a journey into memory's blank spaces

Skating to Antarctica by Jenny Diski, Granta, £14.99

Jenny Diski's autobiographical *Skating to Antarctica* is rather like Hitchcock's film *Suspicion*. Someone has a memory of something they are trying to forget, which makes them compulsive about anything to do with the circumstances of the trauma. With snow (Diski's theme), what others perceive as an irrational fear has a core of meaning to it. When confronted, it begins to heal.

Diski reveals a love of whiteness, of blank spaces and of ice. She describes ice-skating, alienation and a mother who is both present and absent. With unusual candour, Diski unbandages an unusual relationship with her mother in a real and metaphorical voyage through ice.

While actually sailing to Antarctica—with bird watchers and bored tourists—she unravels her own childhood. She takes us from her grooming as a child skater to life in an empty flat with her hysterical mother, and then to spells in the clinical whiteness of mental wards—first for her mother, then herself. The absence of Diski's mother is the tip of the iceberg.

The prose drifts in and out of a dry essay style, breezy commentary, and telling it how it was. For all these shifts, what Diski has to say about her parents has a poignancy that rises above her literary irritability. Even where the ice is thinnest, it still supports the weight of her writing.

Diski began life in London "with parents who were cash rich". That took care of her mother's desperate need to display wealth. "Of all things in her life, I was the best medium for her display." "When the money dried up," she writes, "my mother struggled heroically to maintain my appearance—the white gloves were the last thing to go. But eventually, the money, the credit and my father all ran out for good and at the same

time." By the age of 11, Diski and her mother lived in "an empty shell, with everything including my books, though not the white gloves, taken away by the bailiffs, and we were waiting to be evicted".

Later, Diski decides that "in order to find out if my mother was alive or dead, I would have to open the box. Miraculously, my mother had climbed into the box and closed the lid herself." She doesn't want to lift that lid. We cruise around her mother's tantrums and tears, observing her through the lens of her daughter's memory. Our binoculars are passed from hand to hand round a chorus of elderly Jewish neighbours dredging up the dirt, not only on Diski's mother but on her father too. "He was a charmer, but he was a confidence man..."

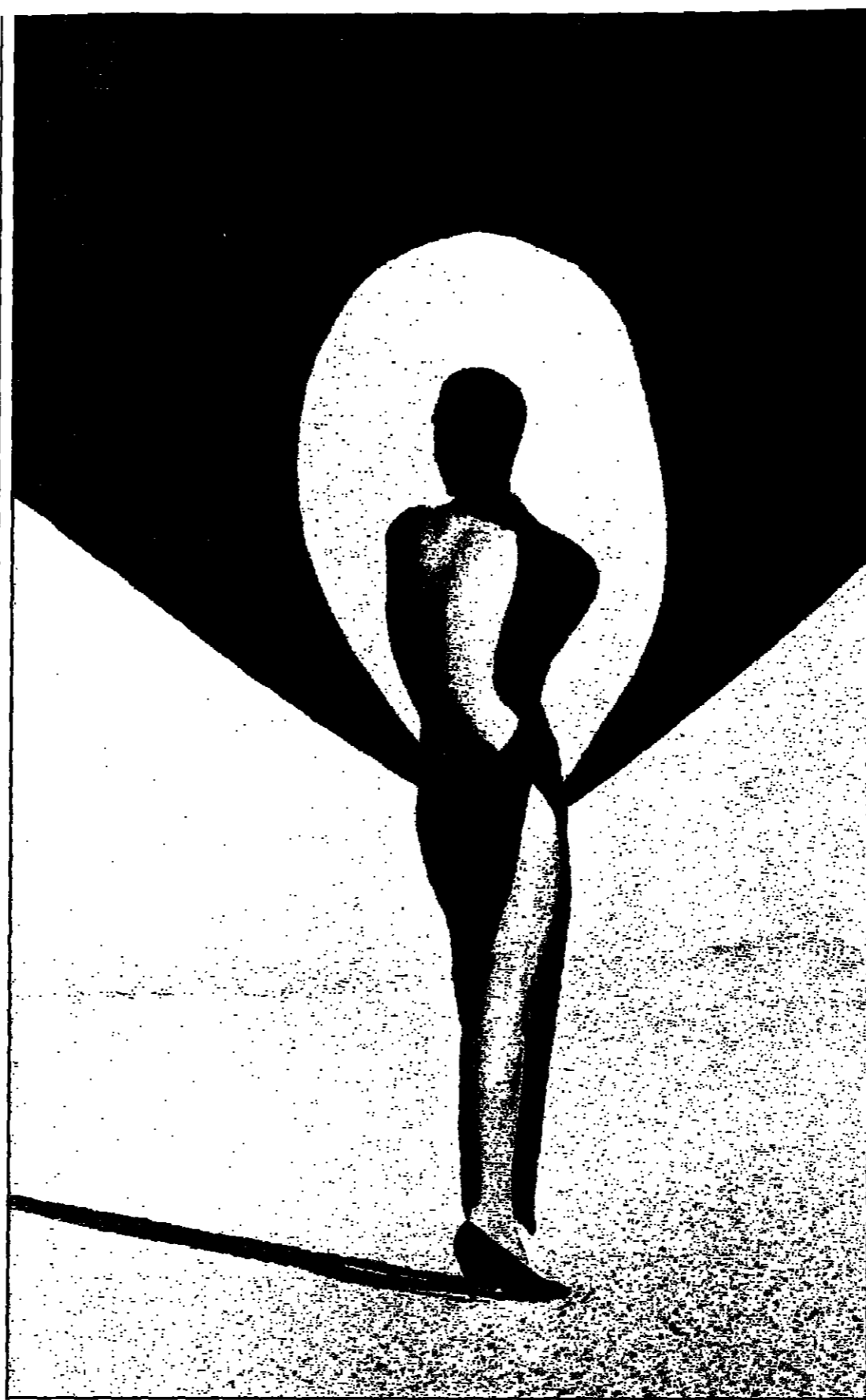
True to her character, it is Diski's mother who grabs centre-stage. She was "frightening in her reactions... Her bitterness and lack of control caused me anxiety and worse, but I don't think it was done with deliberate malice... She was sad rather than bad". Diski recalls that "living with her, day by day, was like skating on the newly formed ice. It constantly shattered, every day, but there was no alternative, no other place to go. No room for anger, but no room for affection either."

Jennifer, the small child in white gloves, skated round and round the ice rink. As an adult, she gathers memories with random thoughts and observations into this book. She says of the trip to Antarctica that "I didn't plan this journey as a pilgrimage of any kind, just as a hopeful voyage into whiteness". In spite of all the searching for emptiness, there is a lot of clutter here.

Occasionally the pond clogs and entangles the reader. As with someone clearing a room who can't bear to throw anything out, a new disorder grows out of the ordering. Yet Diski has cut a hole in the ice; and the voice that predominates calls out from under it, remembering in a memorable way.



Diski: 'cutting a hole in the ice'



A shot by Herb Ritts of a Versace evening dress from 1991. 'Versace', with a text by Richard Martin for Thames & Hudson's Fashion Memoir series (£12.95), indulges in prose as over-the-top and in-your-face as the frocks it depicts. 'The Italian Renaissance is not only a paradigm of dress for Versace', we learn, 'but also his model for life... His great houses are equipped with equally great libraries. His ubiquitous Medusa is not a label in the fashion sense, but an insignia in the Renaissance tradition'. Absolutely fabulous, Gianni.

GARCHIVES GIANNI VERSACE

Onward and upward

Michael Tanner meets a philosopher who always looks on the bright side

Confessions of a Philosopher by Bryan Magee, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

This book is a stone which is trying to kill two birds that are further apart than Bryan Magee may realise. The first is the author's intellectual autobiography, and begins with some delightful passages in which he recalls his early childhood perplexities about the moment when one goes to sleep, the infinity of space and time, and the bewildering way in which the body obeys the will. Later Magee was to find that Kant had preceded him in feeling some of these worries, as well as offering remarkable accounts of their relationship to what we can and can't know.

That takes him on to his second subject, the nature of the philosophical enterprise. He considers some of its major western contributors over the millennia, and repeatedly exonerates 20th-century philosophy as practised in the majority of the universities of the UK. Magee considers this a self-serving affair of professionals with no serious intellectual concerns, who kill any serious interests which their pupils might have and write in a manner calculated to put off anyone but their colleagues.

By contrast with "analytic" or "linguistic" philosophers, Magee has spent most of his life outside of academe, usually earning his keep by pursuing a media career while preserving enough time to study the great issues in depth.

His mode of education has been enviable. "I would take longer works with me on my travels and soak in them for weeks at a time," he recalls: "Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* during six weeks in the quiet heart of Majorca, the collected dialogues of Plato in Salzburg, Heidegger's *Sein und Zeit* in Bayreuth, the *Confessions* of St Augustine in Sicily, Hume's *Enquiries* in Sweden, the works of Leibniz on Lake Garda, Pascal in the West of England."

In between these depth excursions, Magee often took part in trail-blazing intellectual chat shows on TV, pursued a career as a critic of opera, records, the theatre. He wrote books on the way forward for Labour, on homosexuality, Wagner and Karl Popper, and had periodic sojourns in universities.

But something was lacking, despite seeming "to have everything I could reasonably want—good health, energy, an adventurous life, rewarding friendships, exhilarating love affairs, success in my work, exciting travel, the sustained nourishment of music, theatre, reading". Simply: "The realisation hit me like a demolition crane that I was inevitably going to die."

A couple of chapters later things are still just as bad: "I had published eight books, stood for parliament twice, and for some years had been appearing on a regular peak-hour television programme. In a way I was a sort of minor celebrity; I was recognised by strangers in the street, addressed by name in shops and restaurants, asked for my autograph. But none of this had any value for me."

The search for meaning went on. Magee had the privilege of knowing Popper and Russell well, but though he regards them as probably the two greatest geniuses of philosophy in our century, they had nothing to say on the issues which plagued his life, to that point where he often felt he was going mad. Even after writing his philosophical novel *Facing Death* he is still dissatisfied. Three chapters later still, "I had published several books that had received good reviews, and I was earning my living enjoyably as a broadcaster on radio and television."

It was only when, finally, after reading all the other great philosophers, he turned to Schopenhauer—notoriously neglected by academic philosophers—that he at last found someone who had felt the problems he felt, and went at least some way to assuaging the anguish they cause. "He speaks to me as no other philosopher does, direct and in his own human voice, a fellow-spirit, a penetratingly perceptive friend, with a hand on my elbow and a twinkle in his eye."

The two chapters on Schopenhauer are the climax of this long book. Anyone who has heard something about Schopenhauer but not much is likely to expect, and justifiably, that a lengthy consideration of him will mention that, most unusually in the western tradition, he was a pessimist. That word doesn't occur in Magee's book, and by design. He holds the extraordinary view that Schopenhauer got most things impressively more right than other philosophers, but that he made a mistake in being a pessimist—an ill-advised optional extra to his overall view.

That seems to me so monumental a blunder as almost to disarm criticism. But over and over again, Magee registers his dissent from views in terms which leave it unclear that he has any basic grasp of them. Kant, his second most admired thinker, gets a roughly similar treatment to Schopenhauer.

And Magee's criticisms of analytic philosophy, with what he considers its sterile confinement to issues of language rather than of reality, show that he hasn't ever seriously considered the fundamental issue of how one is to find out the nature of the real merely by taking thought.

Fairly early on, rebuking Wittgenstein in Russell-like terms for railing at "the grave and important task of understanding the world," he summarises what he believes to be true: "the perception that there is something mystical about the very existence of the world; the realisation that any significance that life has is transcendental, as must be also all values, morals, and the import of art; and that it is for that reason inherently impossible to give a satisfactory account in language of these things."

As an old-style unregenerate analytic philosopher, in part I want to ask Magee why he thinks that "I ought not to write spitefully about other people" is a transcendental truth, and even what that might mean. No answer is forthcoming. This book chatters goes on its way, at what I can only describe as a middlebrow level. Big issues are constantly wielded, but since their resolution inevitably turns out to be transcendental, no one will be left the wiser, except as to the driving impulses in the life of Bryan Magee.



Bryan Magee: 'big issues'

France through a glass, lightly

Euan Cameron salutes the historian who found magic in the back streets



The 'baffling diversity' of life in the taverns of Paris

HULTON GETTY

In the endpaper to this posthumously published third book of his memoirs, the late Richard Cobb—former Professor of Modern History at Oxford and author of some 15 books—suggests that he was not the sort of person to engender a cult. How wrong he was. To francophiles, and to many former pupils and friends, for whom he was the finest interpreter of France to Britain of his age, there was no one quite like him.

Nobody could convey the mood of prewar Third Republic France, of Brassai and René Clair, quite as he did, because nobody else had his expertise in the recondite corners of the French language, its patois and its slang. And nobody else shared his fascination with the minutiae of local history, his delight in melancholic decay, in "faded gentility" or "baffling diversity".

"Le nomade Cobb", as *Le Monde* once alluded to him, was a rebel at heart, a man of strong enthusiasms and dislikes. In his travels, in his memoirs and in his approach to history, he never took the conventional route. Instead, he opted for "the sidelines, the banks of urban canals, the estaminets near railway stations, the taverns, the narrow streets". For Cobb, it was people and individuals who illuminated history.

Not for him the theories or methodology. Instead, as he showed in his studies of the French Revolution as well as in his "promenades" through the eccentric byways of

The End of the Line by Richard Cobb, John Murray, £20

French literature and culture, it was human relationships that mattered—the ordinary people (his beloved *petits gens*) with whom he was happiest drinking calvados or a *gros rouge* in a backstreet café in Paris, Rouen or Marseilles.

As in his two earlier memoirs *Still Life* and *A Classical Education*, there is little pattern or chronology to Cobb's adventures. An early chapter discloses the formative influences in his "European education": the Baltic coins that first instilled the lure of foreign parts, and the history master at Shrewsbury who introduced him to film-makers such as Pabst or Jean Vigo, and thus to Weimar Berlin and Paris of the 1920s. Next, we see him in between Oxford terms, posing in Paris cafés, puffing at *Cigarettes* and reading *L'Ouvrier*. The long path that would lead "le Cobb" to writing and publishing three volumes of Revolutionary history in French and which would culminate in the *ruban rouge* of the *Légion d'Honneur* had its beginnings in such cafés.

A journey to Austria evokes the pleasures of travel by train across 1930s Europe. However, Vienna, where as a student he stayed at the forbidding home of Felix Salten, creator of Bambi, was definitely not to his liking. The frontiers of "the wrong Europe" were being drawn at an early age. What a strange figure

he cut, this self-conscious young man in his long overcoat! He wandered the streets of the Hapsburg capital, distributed political pamphlets, did part-time work for a Miss Cadbury, who ran the Quaker mission, and was arrested in ludicrous circumstances for trespassing in the Ostbahnhof, with its collection of disused railway carriages, before being expelled from the country.

A later adventure takes Cobb to Sofia in pursuit of an alluring Bulgarian woman, with hilarious consequences. There is also a charming essay on the joys of English hotels in wartime.

But the greater part of *The End of the Line* is an evocation of France—the prewar France that conditioned him and which he loved. Cobb's prose can be mesmerising—as in his soliloquy to Rouen and its communes. Equally, he can be discursive and maddeningly obscure. To enjoy Cobb, however, you have to share his partialities: Flaubert and Simonon, pre-1950s Paris, Pont l'Évêque cheese and calvados. Those who care for Victor Hugo, Vienna, the Tour Montparnasse or La Défense, for instance, may feel excluded.

As the final chapter draws to its moving conclusion (Cobb was ill and knew he had little time left), the author bids *adieu* to his wife, his friends and readers. We are left with the privileged sense that we have just attended this remarkable man's final lecture.

Driven to distraction by mother's little helper

Surprisingly, the *au pair* does not seem yet to be a significant figure in 20th-century fiction. But this is a role rich with promise—the nearest modern thing to the 19th-century governess. She has the same opportunity for detached observation of an alien and potentially menacing domestic set-up, while herself providing a further dimension of enigmatic challenge. In the tradition of the genre, she must be not so much an unreliable narrator as one who is patently holding something back. She has walked into a baffling situation, but the reader is also teased by her own circumstances. What has brought her to this?

So here is Rachel Cusk flying a kite for *au pair* governess literature and nicely abiding by the requirements. Her protagonist, Stella Benson, is nothing if not opaque. She quits job and husband, writes a chilly letter to her parents saying she wishes to cut off relations, and unaccountably takes a job as *au pair* with the Maddens, a family equipped with rolling acres, an Aga and stone pineapples in front of their mansion.

Penelope Lively welcomes a modern twist to the governess's tale

The Country Life by Rachel Cusk, Picador, £15.99

Stella's ignorance of country life is such that she seems never to have seen a field of wheat before. She is fazed by everything—summer heat, flora and fauna and, most of all, by the Maddens themselves: manic father, histrionic mother and the initially prickly disabled 17-year-old son who is to be Stella's particular charge. Meanwhile the reader is being driven distracted by Stella, who is the most peculiar young woman. She is 29 but with a mindset so ponderous that her reflections seem to spring from another age. "The day... held no promise of nourishment other than what I might procure for myself... some article of shame would provide a bitter chaser for my sickened

palate". She is self-absorbed, introspective and bleak in the extreme. Woven into her narrative are hints that all is indeed not quite as it seems.

Why does she have that name? Sure enough, in due course she picks up a book by the writer Stella Benson, the title of which sends out a hefty signal. The climate of the novel is a curious mix of oppressive and intriguing. Stella's stilted language conveys a Mad Hatter's tea-party impression of the Madden household as the story moves in slow motion through the days. A focus of tension is the fact that a driving licence was a condition of the job; Stella can't drive and must surely be rumoured, sooner or later.

The scene in which, coached by the now conspiratorial disabled boy, she drives him to his day centre, is a splendid cliff-hanger. This mundane activity is another fictional black hole, one realises. The literature of driving surfaces only in exaggeration: *Accident Crash*.

More Maddens arrive on the scene. The extended family is a spectacularly unappealing array. But by then Stella herself has become a

nightmare *au pair*. She is accident-prone beyond belief. She falls downstairs, she vomits on the lawn, she tracks melted tar across the carpet, she floods the kitchen floor.

In one chaotic sequence the opening of a fridge door sets off a chain of events which ends with her pitching drunk into the swimming-pool. Her detachment from the ordinary requirements of life is such that she has arrived without enough clothes and has no money because she has thrown away her cheque book.

Stella's fecklessness seems at odds with her ponderous and indeed elderly thought processes. There is a certain hectic comedy in her progress from mishap to disaster, but she comes across less as a comic character than a perplexing and frequently maddening one. But there are hidden explanations for her behaviour. If the ending seems a touch indecisive, after the adroitly paced narrative with its sequence of vigorous scenes, we are by then so affected by Stella's self-destructive progress that a glimmer of hope comes as welcome relief.

2015/10/10

Stinks, squalor and splendour

Jan Morris marks a metropolitan mastermind – and imagines Tony Blair in petticoat breeches

Restoration London by Liza Picard, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

Imagine Samuel Pepys re-incarnated as a 20th-century woman lawyer, and looking back at 17th-century London not as a diarist but as a social analyst. Imagine P D James deciding to set a thriller in the time of Charles II and assembling her background materials. Imagine a civil servant, Grade 5, mugging up on the period after the Great Fire for *Mastermind*. Put the three together, and you may have some idea of Liza Picard's *Restoration London*.

Ms Picard is a 69-year-old barrister who worked for years in the office of the Solicitor of the Inland Revenue. She has never written a book before, but what she lacks in experience she certainly makes up for in enthusiasm and virtuoso knowledge. There is almost no aspect of life in Restoration London that is not meticulously described in these 300-odd pages. You want laundry methods? You want hospital waiting lists? Mirror glass? Planning regulations? Juries? Public transport? Lavatory systems? Parks? Pornography? Making a will? Cooking a pike? Ms Picard passes on none. I would not like to have crossed accounts with her when she was with the Inland Revenue.

"I hope," she tells the reader in her forward, "that you will at least find the book entertaining, if taken in small doses." She might have been writing her own review. *Restoration London* is highly entertaining, but hardly to be read at one go. It is a challenging sort of bedside book. Although I did read it all the way through, my responses were inconsistent. Sometimes it kept me happily awake, eager for yet more curious nuggets of instruction. Sometimes it sent me off to sleep. Since it is nearer an anthology than a work of literature, I was reduced to jotting down a few varied revelations from its cornucopia of surprises. For example:

- James I thought the site of St James's Park a good place for keeping crocodiles.
- "Daughter" was pronounced "dafter" in 17th-century London, and when they wanted to say "come off it" they said "go shoe the goose!"
- In 1656, 100 different varieties of daffodil were listed, and 50 kinds of hyacinth.
- Urine was a marketable commodity, used in the tanning of hides and making soap.
- Human teeth were sometimes implanted in toothless people's jaws; there was a glut of them after the Great Fire.
- Hatters really were liable to madness, because of the mercury used in beaver felt hats.
- When there was a national church collection to help relieve the hardships of the Fire, the parishioners of Devon contributed £1,480 6s, of Meirionydd, £1 16s.
- The second most common cause of death for women, after childbirth, was cooking at open fires in long skirts.

Women appear prominently in this register, from duchesses to whores (whose bawdy-houses were traditionally demolished by violent apprentices on Shrove Tuesday). Picard is not one of your



London in ruins after the Great Fire: rebuilding was 'achieved with an almost transatlantic efficiency'

BRITISH LIBRARY

he-or-she grammarians, thank God, but she is evidently a strong and sensible feminist, and surveys the Restoration scene frankly from a woman's viewpoint. We learn about the horrible midwives of the time, who killed many of their patients, pushed awful things up mothers' vaginas and were always in a hurry to get on to the next confinement. We hear about prices, fashionable underwear and anti-perspirants. We imagine how difficult it was getting into a Thames skiff in a full skirt with stays. At the end, we muse on the unlikelihood of much change in our lives "while men control them".

All this gives the book a contemporary freshness. Liza Picard is looking at her period from a

clear 20th-century perspective. The effect is strange. Sometimes everything sounded so different that Restoration England might have been on a different planet. At other moments, it seemed remarkably like the modern world.

The rebuilding of London after the Great Fire, for example, seems to have been achieved with an almost transatlantic efficiency. The interfering bossiness of those midwives reminds me very much of modern NHS obstetrics. The 58 different drugs they gave Charles II in the last week of his life, together with bleedings, enemata and red-hot irons on his feet, were disturbingly akin to the technological wizardries that kept Franco breathing

long after his time. The 17th-century traffic jams sound depressingly familiar; so do the muggers who haunted the ruins of the Fire. The street cries of the day were probably not much unlike the mysterious chant of the newspaper-seller which sounded outside Kensington High Street tube station when I was last in London.

London itself dominates the book – snobbery, stinks, squalor, splendour and all. More than most capitals, London remains more or less the same. You will no longer find the truncated heads of wrongdoers ornamenting the capital, but in essence ours is the same city that Liza Picard records. Foreigners through its streets still, sometimes admir-

ing, sometimes contemptuous; swells drive around in ostentatious equipages; Samuel Pepyses proposition their secretaries and birds of high plumage still strut and squawk around St James's Park.

History seldom falters here, and London's continuity is unique among the nations – if one generation fires, the next soon resumes the rhythm. After reading Liza Picard's book I find it quite possible to imagine, say, Tony Blair rigged out in the petticoat breeches of his Parliamentary predecessors 300 years ago – trousers which were trimmed with yards and yards of ribbon, and fashionably worn at half-mast, hanging from the wearer's hips. Mr Major, no. Mr Blair, perhaps.

Whoppers from the burgher king

Felipe Fernández-Armesto on a Swiss family's tall tales

Soap-opera fans would love the European 16th century. Routine family squabbles were heightened by convulsive social change, religious conflict, rampant inflation, intrusive rulers and the sudden disasters inflicted by sickness and childbirth. Meanwhile, in a favourite image of the time, the wheel of fortune churned those who clung to it between rags and riches.

The Platter family of Basle wrote their own saga: three generations left colourful memoirs or journals, backed up by letters. Their involvement in the business of medicine brought them close to life-and-death stories. Their student days, vividly described, provide comic relief. Their scientific interests gave them a privileged window onto exciting novelties. Their Protestantism made them part of a radical vanguard. Their dalliances and devotions involved them in loves and hatreds.

Instead of adapting it for the screen, Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie has turned their story into a history book. The author of *Montauillou* has a great gift for winking the human interest out of old documents, but the Platters defy attempts to re-write their own works. They did the job too well themselves in the first place. Le Roy Ladurie makes a tactical mistake in foregrounding on the youngest generation. His story of one father and one son is unsatisfyingly limited. He crowds the pages with minor characters, of whom too little is known to make them interesting. Although he does an excellent job of fixing the chronology and using unpublished material from letters, he takes an uncritical view of the strange feats of memory which produced parts of the memoirs – especially those of the dynasty's founder, who surely recalled his early life with the exaggerations that come easily in old age.

Time is wasted on an irrelevant and inaccurate round-up of news from all over the world at a representative moment of the story. Some episodes are discarded with bewildering rapidity; descriptions of some journeys are long and colourless. Le Roy Ladurie is a master of the representative detail and uses the Platters' lives as a means to see a whole century "through a glass, darkly"; but some of his attempts to draw wider significance from small events are cute or embarrassing. With typical infelicity, when one of his characters, who is

The Beggar and the Professor by Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, Chicago University Press, £29.95

Swiss, prefers "to be a butcher than a priestling", the author adds, "The anticlericalism that would become such a prominent feature of French politics in the late 19th and early 20th centuries clearly had deep roots."

Despite these defects, the Platter story is good enough to grip. Le Roy Ladurie represents it as "a saga of social ascent in the story of a transmission of learning", which turns an ex-gothard into an ornament of Basle society. Education ennobled in the 16th century, and Thomas Platter the elder was a worker of demonic energy, mastering the classics in the rare intervals of leisure which poverty allowed. Home and prosperity were his reward – though not quite enough of either for his son to escape opprobrium for his affectation of aristocratic dress.

His life as a schoolmaster brought its own forms of frustration. Thomas's daughter-in-law, who came from a richer home, could not stand having noisy pupils on the premises. The "career plan" Ladurie identifies – to become a rural landowner – was abandoned by the next generation, which had solidly bourgeois tastes. Yet the Platters' lives do not seem quite to have happened in the world Le Roy Ladurie depicts, riven between emulous classes. Thomas rose not from class to class but from estate to estate in a society based on family structures and vertically arrayed communities. It is true that he kept goats in childhood, followed a mendicant's vocation while wandering in search of learning, and supported himself as a ropemaker for a while. But he always had prospects from the benevolence of his copious kin. Destined for the priesthood – as many promising boys were for the dignity of their impoverished families – he got more help in his quest for education than he later cared to admit. A legacy came from his mother, a loan from his uncle and gifts of butter, cheese and eggs from 72 female cousins at a critical stage.

What really drove the Platters in their relentless efforts to acquire qualifications and clients? Was it the love of learning which Thomas Platter genuinely evinced or, as Le Roy Ladurie, believes, social ambition? For Thomas's eldest surviving son, we are told, "social success was not far

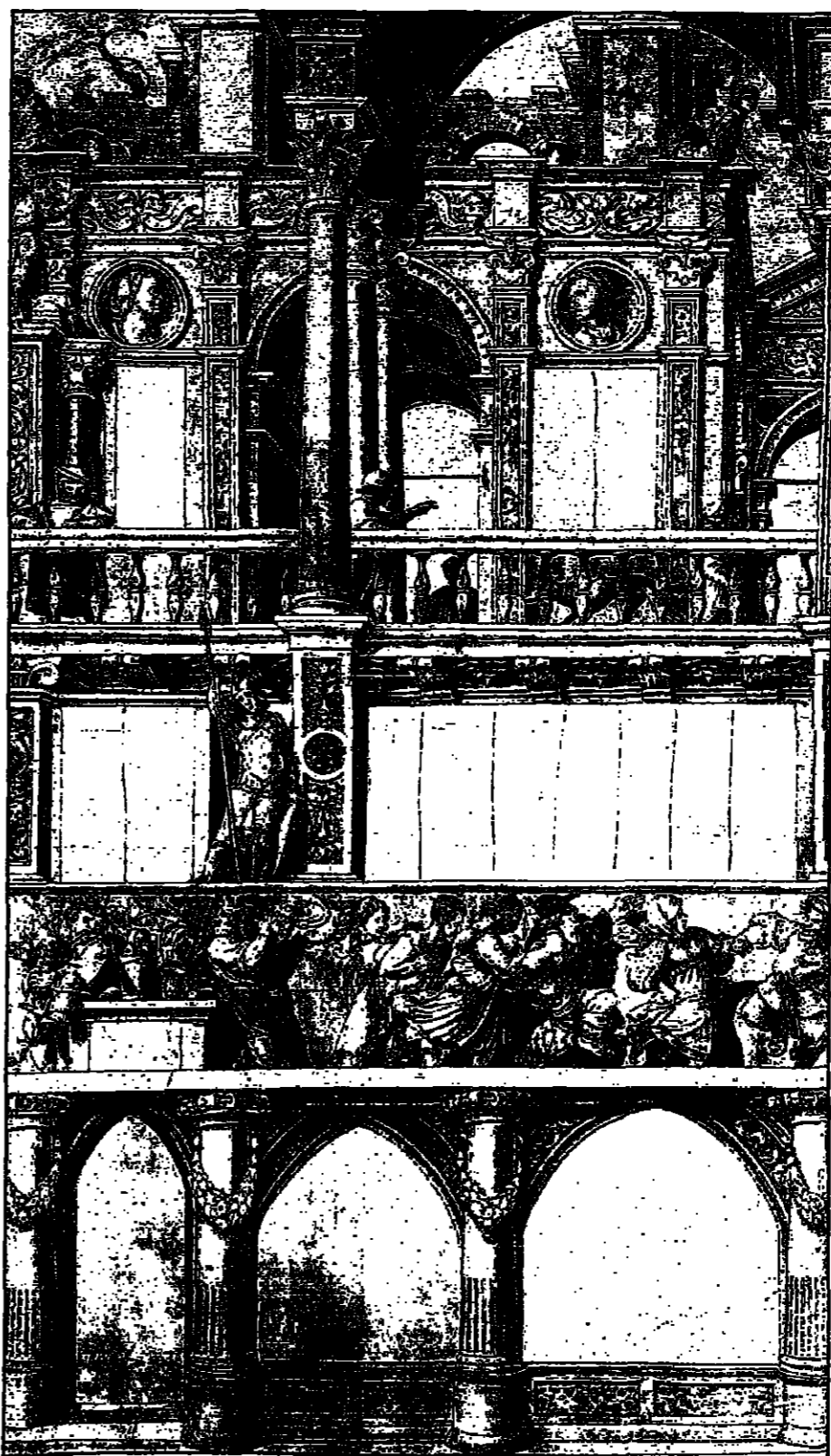
from happiness". But he was a conscientious physician, willing to treat the poor and needy as well as the reputable and rich.

His father took pride in his place in the acceptance world of Basle burghers, but never forgot his own early hardships and showed compassion. For instance, on the pauper orphan the Platters adopted. It was a Platter family characteristic to be ruled by conscience and whim as much as by calculation of advantage.

As Le Roy Ladurie sees it, the world through which the Platters moved was divided not only by differences of class but also of religion and ethnicity. Early conversion to Protestantism diverted Thomas from his intended career in the Church; but the violence we often associate with the Reformation hardly touched his family's life. Le Roy Ladurie has found – somewhat to his own surprise – that Thomas and his son matured into broad-mindedness as "ultradogmatic orthodoxy was gradually supplanted by tolerance and a kind of eclectic devotion". Thomas's heir even contemplated making the Santiago pilgrimage, without forsaking any of his evangelical self-consciousness. He was influenced – as the author shows – by the religion of friends of Jewish ancestry.

He was more impressed by differences between Germanic and Romance language-zones than between the rival confessions among which he lived. The German-speakers had their own culture, symbolised in the frequent drunkenness with which Platter and his boon-companions offended the respectable during their student-days in Montpellier.

The Platters' main works about themselves are all available in good English translations and their extraordinary lives and complex characters can be enjoyed in their own words. Le Roy Ladurie's book is helpful in sorting out chronological problems and gathering a selection of thrilling anecdotes within a single pair of covers. Readers can smile at the antics of child beggars, marvel at the comradely violence with which friends maltreated each other, chuckle at the perils of courtship and raise eyebrows at the cosy corruption with which examinations for a doctorate were conducted in the Platters' Basle. The 16th century is displayed not so much through a glass darkly as in isolated little pools of vivid light.



Hans Bock: 'Sketch for a House facade with Prudence and Fortune' in Basle, 1571; in 'Hans Holbein' by Oskar Bätschmann and Pascal Griener (Reaktion Books, £40)

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday



Boyd Tonkin

A week in books

When the *Independent* ran an extract from Anne Michaels's mesmerising first novel, some readers who had loved its incandescent prose but overlooked the small print rang in to check the book's details. As I recall, men and women phoned in equal numbers – a trivial point, you might assume. Well, on Wednesday, *Fugitive Pieces* mocked its long odds as a 6-1 outsider to win Michaels's second Orange Prize for fiction by women. And Professor Lisa Jardine, who chaired the judging panel for the £30,000 award, prefaced this supremely just decision with a broadside against male critics who refuse to rate novels from female authors. "Not only do men tend not to read the novels women read," she thundered, "they don't seem to think it matters either – not even if they consider themselves to be discerning readers of the modern novel".

She cited Christina Stead as a prime example of a major figure spurned by the cock-eyed tastes of the male literati. Up to a point. When James Wood used to sermonise from his pulpit as the *Guardian's* critic-in-chief, scarcely a week would pass without some scornful comparison between the wrecked work under review and – the unrivalled greatness of Christina Stead. The general case, however, remains strangely true. Women will happily read the most testosterone-fuelled of writers. Terry Pratchett has a horde of female fans; as does Iain Banks; as does Irvine Welsh.

The reverse – to male readers' loss – doesn't yet apply. One reason for this imbalance may lie in feminist rhetoric itself. At least in the grim, sectarian Seventies, many of its advocates planted huge "Men: keep off" signs around the flourishing terrain of women's fiction. Yet literature is no one's private ground; literature is common ground – as Virginia Woolf once wrote. Ironically, one way to haul male readers out of the self-inflicted literary purdah that rightly bothers Lisa Jardine might be to invite more open-minded male critics to review novels by women. (It was Geoff Dyer who, in these pages, hailed *Fugitive Pieces* as "an unprecedented imaginative creation".)

One other aspect of Anne Michaels's triumph deserves attention. For the second time – after Helen Dunmore's victory – the Orange Prize has gone to a distinguished poet-turned-novelist. Margaret Atwood – also a poet – contended on the shortlist, while one of this spring's boldest novels (*Impossible Saints*) came from another twin-track creator, Michèle Roberts. At the moment, more women than men seem to manage high achievement in both verse and prose. But literature exists to upend generalities – including that one. John Fuller – a relative latecomer to fiction – belongs in this amphibious company; and you can read about his mysterious new novel over the page.

Paperbacks



By Christopher Hirst
and Emma Hagestadt

Eden Renewed by Peter Levi (Paperback, £12.00) Though much-quoted, John Milton remains a daunting Titan of literature. This admirably succinct biography makes Milton's work, including his Latin verse, accessible to the modern reader. The turbulent political milieu in which Milton became so deeply enmeshed is deftly conveyed. Levi delights in the disparities of the 17th century. The soaring cadences of *Paradise Lost* are set alongside a contemporary view of Milton as "a dead dog, a canker worm, a petty schoolboy scribbler."

The Hilt by Dick Francis (Michael Joseph, £9.99) Alexander Kinloch, artist and self-styled weirdo, lives in a small bothy on a remote Scottish fellside. Unaccountably beaten up one day by a group of thuggish hill walkers, "Mad A" is plunged into a horsey mystery – one involving his uncle (the Earl of Kinloch), his stepfather (Ivan George Westerling, pillar of the Jockey Club) and the missing King Alfred Gold Cup. An old-fashioned yarn of mistaken identities and overnight sleepers. John Buchan meets the *Racing Gazette*.

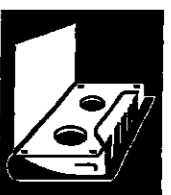
Savages by Joe Kane (Pan, £6.99) After all but drowning in his previous work, *Running the Amazon*, here Kane almost starves to death in the Ecuadorian jungle. Still, he fares better than a visiting bishop who was found skewered "by 17 palmwood spears, each 10 feet long". The indigenous Huaorani people turn out to be tough and resilient (if infuriating), but their survival is threatened by predatory oil companies. In this absorbing account, hilarious and heartbreaking by turns, there is no doubt who Kane regards as the real savages.

Infinity and the Mind by Rudy Rucker (Penguin, £5.99) While many of the concepts tackled here are tantalising – such as the infinitely large "Hilbert's Hotel", which can be filled by a number known as "alef-one" – the non-mathematician will rapidly throw in the towel. Rucker tries to be the human face of mathematics, using cartoons and references to Chuck Berry to make his point, but the symbols win in the end.

Trampled Lilies by Lady Fortesque (Back Swan, £6.99) The fragrant author (1888-1951), who enjoyed posthumous success with *Perfume from Provence* proved no shrinking violet when the tide of war swept through her adopted homeland. Despite doubts ("the rot of Communism had tainted the army of the South"), she bravely organised billets until forced to flee. After a thrilling drive to Brittany, Lady F plus beloved spaniel caught the last boat home. Back in England, a chance overhearing raised her spirits: "I can't get that Lady Fortesque off me 'cart. 'Ow, I do 'ope she's 'ortright." With four titles now in print, the answer is yes.

Onitsha by J M G Le Clezio (Bison Books, £13.99) Separated by the outbreak of war in Europe, Fintan has never met his English father. When finally he and his Italian mother receive word to join him in Nigeria, they've almost made themselves sick with imaginings of their future home. But nothing can prepare them for Onitsha – a place of red ravines, silky rivers and hot winds. Every bit as readable as Joyce Carey and William Boyd when it comes to colonial types, Le Clezio also manages to pull off the mystery of Africa without getting too French about it. This beautifully written book gets as close to the heart of darkness as poetically possible.

Audiobooks



Even more revealing than what we say about ourselves in our own write is what we say in our own voice. Alec Guinness reading his own "Diary of a Retired Actor", My Name Escapes Me (Penguin, 3hrs, £7.99), enhances his reputation as funny, cultivated and modest; the richness of his talented life is reflected in how much he has to remember, and still enjoy. The drug smuggler Howard Marks, *enfant terrible* of Oxford in the 1970s and notoriously capable of charming his way out of most scrapes, is distinctly diminished by his autobiography Mr Nice (Reed, 3hrs, £7.99). His awed and repetitive roll call of his biggest ever heists, cleverest carriers and most ingenious aliases has lots of clichéd declarations for the family who (inexplicably) stood behind him, but leaves the impression of a man with £ signs in his eyes rather than soul.

Christina Hardyment

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Rooms of their own



Simon Watney sketches the partnership that framed a life in art

Duncan Grant by Frances Spalding, Chatto & Windus, £25

Duncan Grant has been rather shabbily treated in the extensive literature on Bloomsbury. He is often dismissed as a "merely decorative" artist – especially, one feels, by those who care little about art – or else as an emotional flibbertigibbet. Not least among the merits of this welcome biography is that Frances Spalding presents him as he would doubtless have wished to be presented – as, above all, a painter. Painting was the stable centre of his life, his rod and staff. He embodied the type of the artist at its purest, as countless anecdotes testify here. Moreover, the artist who emerges was a man of immense vitality and charm. Grant never seems to have exercised that charm selfishly, but it enveloped him like a radiance, sometimes a shield but never a sword.

Given his father's military career, his childhood was peripatetic. His parents were constantly on the move between postings in India and Burma, with frequent trips home to Britain. His father was hopeless with money, as was Duncan. Hence the great significance of the idea of home in his subsequent life and work, after he settled down for the first time at the age of 17 in the uncomfortable position of a poor relation in the bustling household of his aunt, Lady Stephen, which he memorably described as



Duncan Grant (above left) and (above) at his 90th birthday dinner party

"that vast Caravanserai that was 69 Lancaster Gate".

Surrounded by garrulous Strachey cousins he found his own peace and quiet in the world of museums and galleries, a quality he shared with Vanessa Bell, with whom he lived for almost half a century. They protected one another from the intrusions of over-literary relations, and recognised an equally intense commitment to the less consciously intellectual routine of the studio.

It was never going to be an easy relationship. As he noted in a 1918 diary: "I was hurt slightly by her saying she got no more from me than a brotherly affection... I am so uncertain of my real feeling to V that I am utterly unable to feign more than I feel when called upon to feel so much... the only thing lacking in my feeling to her in passion... All I feel I can do is to build slowly for her a completely strong affection on which she can lean her weary self."

Certainly there were emotional costs for them both, but these did not I think outweigh the gains of deep,

enduring love and mutual respect. In 1930 he asked himself, in the throes of an unhappy love-affair, why Vanessa "does not believe that I love her as much as ever I did? When she is unhappy I am unhappy too... I want too much I suppose... As I am made as I am I must do the best with myself and... with others."

After reading this book, it is not possible to regard Vanessa Bell simply as a kind of injured innocent, as is currently fashionable in American feminist martyrdom. Their long relationship possesses its own integrity, and enabled both of them to sustain major creative careers on their own terms, as they chose, within a society that sadly remains strongly moralistic and homophobic.

Here as elsewhere Frances Spalding has contributed substantially to the beginnings of a serious reconsideration of their work. It has previously been absurdly neglected or belittled, most regrettably obscuring their unique contribution to early modernist European art.

Spalding guides us deftly through a long life which contained at least as many disappointments as triumphs. Through it all Duncan Grant remained an overwhelmingly lovable man – loyal, trustworthy, generous, kind, funny, sexy, modest and entirely unassuming. He genuinely liked women, and was never entirely happy in the somewhat brittle, men-only world inhabited by so many early 20th-century British homosexuals. Always his own man, he was never a slave to fashion, never doctrinaire. The only past he dwelt upon was that of painting.

He appears here as a remarkable modern figure. That he was also perhaps the greatest British painter since Gainsborough, with whom his art has many affinities, is another good reason for reading this shrewd and thoughtful book.

It is thus particularly regrettable that its publishers have evidently taken so little trouble with the quality of most of the photographic illustrations.



Nancy Spain: 'gay, provocative and going places' NEWS INTERNATIONAL

Out and about in an innocent age

Peter Parker on a gay old timer

A Trouser-wearing Character: the life and times of Nancy Spain by Rose Collis, Cassell, £25

She's gay, she's provocative... She's going places, the *News of the World* boasted when it acquired Nancy Spain as a columnist in 1961. That headline, like much of Rose Collis's welcome biography, is a reminder of a more innocent world than ours, a world in which it was seriously suggested that the trouser-wearing Spain might be about to marry Gilbert Harding, a man in whom bachelorhood could hardly have been more obviously confirmed.

Spain and Harding were among the first television "personalities" at a period when a modicum of talent and decorum was required of those appearing on panel games. Unlike Harding, Spain never gave the impression that such programmes were beneath her. She was a genuine populist who had made her name in the pages of Beaverbrook's *Daily Express*, where she began as the paper's chief book reviewer before gradually becoming a free-range columnist.

The *Express* promoted her as a controversialist: "They call her Vulgar; they call her Unscrupulous; they have called her the worst-dressed woman in Britain." Vulgar and unscrupulous she undoubtedly was, but although rarely prevailed upon to wear a frock,

she had a certain bitch chic. In the formal world of 1950s broadcasting, the contrast between Spain in her "natty gents' sportswear" and fellow-panelists such as Lady Isobel Barnett in their stiff evening dresses was striking. Some people thought her merely bohemian, but others recognised the dress-code and were grateful to have so engaging a role-model.

One of the pleasures of Spain's story is that of witnessing someone getting away with it. Not only did this person, who would these days be described as a "visible lesbian", have a large gay following (particularly for her decidedly camp detective stories), but she was read and listened to by thousands of ordinary heterosexual pre-feminist women. Contracts with *Women's Hour* and *She*, the magazine founded and edited by her lover Joan ("Jonnie") Werner Laurie, brought her into homes where women still had their place. Through Spain, such women could learn what it might be like to work a dockland crane, go rock-climbing or rally-driving.

With a certain amount of discretion she even wrote about her own domestic set-up with "a very nice lady publisher (ie Laurie) and her two sons". Readers were not, of course, informed

that the two women shared a bed, but this was less surprising than the fact that the younger boy was Spain's son. This was something that not even he discovered until after Spain and Laurie died together when the light aircraft in which they were travelling to the Grand National crashed in a cabbage-field near the racecourse.

Also part of this ménage was Sheila van Dam, racing driver and manager of the Windmill Theatre, with whom Laurie (as her son explained) "would go off and do fairly bitchy boys' things together". This is probably all they did, although their relationship was undoubtedly more than friendly. Spain, on the other hand, had several affairs, most openly with Ginette Spanier, the (married) direc-

trice of Balmain. (She may have had a liaison with Dietrich – but then who didn't?) Spain and Laurie's partnership easily withstood such diversions.

Collis traces Spain's life and career with diligence and good humour, but occasionally with rather too much detail. By the time we get on to Spain's service in the WRNS, however, the book gathers momentum. "Don't be an officer," one pal advised her. "You go on being a bloody pirate." Spain took the counsel to heart, and Collis is particularly good at capturing this buccaneering aspect. When Spain behaved badly, Collis says so, but this is a properly affectionate portrait which rescues from gathering oblivion an unlikely but cheering representative of her era.

Double visions from a womb with a view

Michael Arditti on an infant prodigy

A Skin Diary by John Fuller, Chatto, £9.99

The womb might be thought to be fiction's final frontier. Conceptions are commonplace. Some adventurous authors, most recently Harold Brodkey, have charted a course down the birth canal. Now, taking the novel's quest for novelty to its innermost limits, John Fuller's *A Skin Diary* features a foetus-eye view of the world.

Displaying an intelligence and sensibility which would astound even the most fanatical pro-Lifer, Fuller's foetus addresses his mother, Mair, throughout the nine-month cycle of her pregnancy, as he develops from "a wink that might

still be tiddled" through a "little top-heavy sea-horse" into a recognisable human form. At the same time, he is a privileged observer of the sexual conflict which unfolds around him, when his father, Gruffudd, mistrusting his mother's fidelity, leaves home.

Fuller has rooted his story in a 19th-century Welsh farming community, where the chapel influence is all-pervasive. The flinty intensity of his imagery recalls Faulkner,

He marries a highly specific sense of period with a mythic drama in which Mair is both Earth Mother (the contours of her body evoking the landscape of the Valleys) and Penelope waiting for the return of her Wanderer. Like the Manichee to which he alludes, Fuller propounds a dualism of male and female, good and evil, and light and dark.

The richest of all these archetypal layers concerns the birth of Christ. Christian imagery abounds: the baby is conceived at Easter and born at Christmas;

Mair and Gruffudd are Mary and Joseph; there is even an angel, albeit a primarily figurative one. It soon becomes clear that the foetus' intelligence is no mere literary device but fundamental to the novel's meaning. Who could he be a more omniscient narrator than Christ? Like Christ, the foetus inhabits a double time-scale as both the ancient of days and an individual being. Nevertheless, the correspondences with the gospels aren't comprehensive (Gruffudd, unlike Joseph, is the baby's true father). Fuller has no wish to limit Christ to one incarnation. He implies that there is the divine in every birth.

The central image of the novel is the Word made flesh (the foetus is a "baby-bible") – not only the essence of the Christian myth but a pointer to Fuller's own poetic skill. He has fleshed out his story with a succession of richly associative metaphors... the foetus "leaking like an old man into its sack", the ram with a "horn hard as a headache". Far from serving as decoration, this expresses the truth of a world-view where, in the foetus's phrase, "I have a sense that everything is related". This wealth of inter-connection gives this 150-page novel the texture of one three times its length.

Independent choice:

poetry

By Peter Forbes

Peter Porter long ago espoused the cause of the provincial dandy in poetry – the kind of poet whose polymathic wit was sharpened miles from High Table. Since a recent major anthology encouraged us to believe that poetry is chiefly a property of the Celtic fringe and the Middle Ages, it is worth reminding ourselves that we mostly live in towns and cities, however much we put out tendrils into nature and the past.

Porter has been a great force in English poetry for nearly 40 years. In his new collection *Dragons and their Pleasant Palaces* (Oxford Poets, £6.99), he reflects ruefully on the rewards for such commitment in "The Deaths of Poets": "But, somehow it all went wrong; death couldn't be postponed/symposia and *Festschriften* rotted/... hoped for vindications, complete with jokes and anecdotes, were never written or were spiked by teenage editors". This mood – despite characteristic burrowings into his beloved Italy and the 19th century – pervades the book, and is not merely poetic and personal. As "The Western Canoe" says: "We're all in it together, paddling downstream/as in that clip from Sanders of the River..." Which is a poetical-polite way of saying up Shit Creek drowning in technical jargon, TV wars, stranded in a place where "all roads lead to CD-Rom".

I'm not sure that this anger is right for Porter's muse. He began as a sardonic satirist of the consumer society ("love goes as the MG goes") and wits strike home best when cool, but no one can deny his right to be angry. An unexpected and more positive note of reconciliation with his Australian background is struck in "National Service".

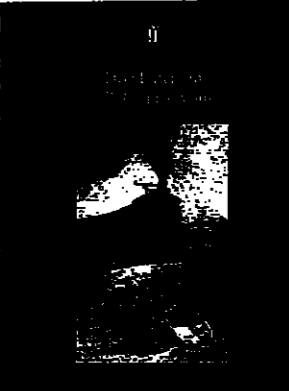
Don Paterson wants to be more learned than the Oxbridge boys, while simultaneously starring in his own road movie. This dichotomy has him lurching about like a Paul McCartney, his quality control department AWOL. The best poem in his second collection *God's Gift to Women* (Faber, £6.99), "A Private Bottling", laments a failed relationship in "a chain of nips... the tincture of a failed geography", whereas another big set-piece, "The Alexandrian Library Part II" merely fails the challenge of Paul Muldoon. *God's Gift to Women* is artfully packaged with a lot of knowing jokes, most of which would have been better left on the dunny wall.

In the quieter carrels of his library, Paterson aspires to MacNeice's intensely graceful lyric moments. This influence inspires some of his best poems: "Siesta", "Candle Bird", "Imperial", "Advice to Young Husbands", the "Bottling". But his strongest suit is still the microtones of description. He's a kind of verse Nicholson Baker: "the spot-string of a knotted Featherlite", "the vacuum of a black Costa Rica/the smell of it, capric, deeply provocative".

John Burnside was praised some books ago by Sean O'Brien for not being "a tweedy nature boy", by which he meant that Burnside writes from that neck of the woods that gave us rural incest rather than Harvest Festival suppers. In *A Normal Skin* (Cape, £7), Burnside dissolves the unities of time and space into a half-lit world where the shed skins of other lives haunt and propagate themselves. Favourite words are drowned, vanish, veil, smoke, muffled, ghosts. There's a ghouliness edge: a poem on his father ends with "his taste for carrion". It has been remarked that nature poetry has virtually disappeared in the 1990s, with Burnside its lone successful practitioner. But he's no Edward Thomas, being as dandified as anyone with titles like "Ukiyo-e", epigrams from William Carlos Williams, fancy words like "baan" instead of mist.

The centrepiece of Sarah Maguire's *The Invisible Mender* (Cape, £7) is a version of Marina Tsvetaeva's long sequence "Wires". This seems to me the voice Maguire is searching for: Tsvetaeva's torrential passion rendered as an electrical storm coursing down telegraph wires. In Maguire's own poems, feeling is muffled by imagistic throwaways. This is the downside of provincial dandyism: the belief that the oblique and polysyllabic can automatically carry the freight of emotion. They can't: "Your bunched, curled faces/magenta and saffron/phototropic with desire/inexorably riding the light". Chrysanthemums, actually.

Alistair Elliot is the wild (or rather tame) card in this batch. There is not much of any kind of dandy in him, although he does live in Newcastle. "Anniversary Photograph" in *Facing Things* (Carcanet, £9.95), would have fulfilled Larkin's worst fears about marriage and the muse. Marriage is seen as "flattened grass" and the muse takes a beating too: "The bed is rumpled, a crumpled invitation". Elliot's is a decent, humane poetry, full of musings on people and places – a Yorkshire ammonite, an old bakelite wireless, lost household objects refound. "A Family Wireless" has more urgency than most: "I don't return it: set before the war/ Home, it doesn't know it's Radio Four." Perhaps he should have dared to shift that dial after all.



Pick of the week
God's Gift to Women

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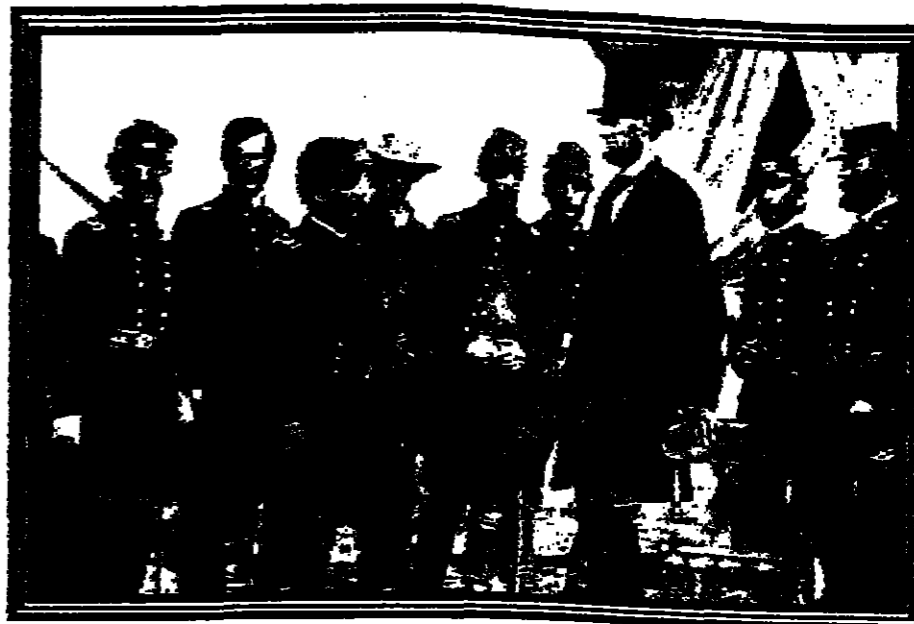
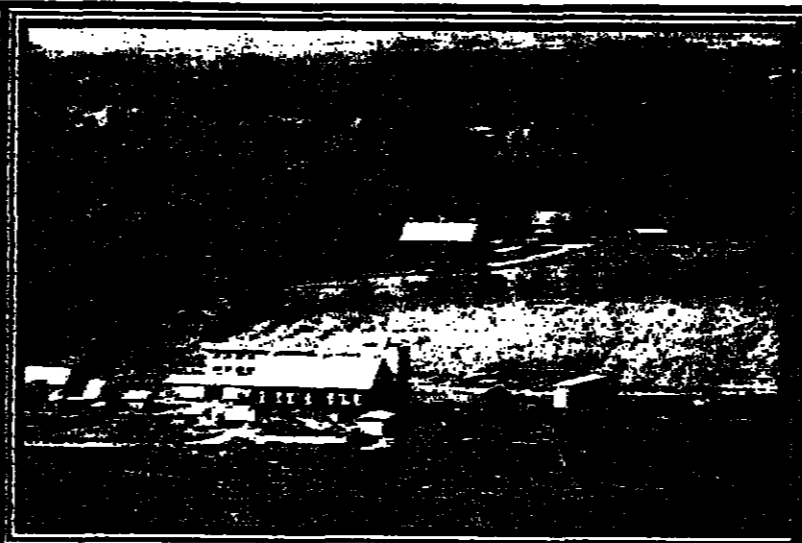
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Where John Brown's body lies a' mouldering in the grave

Guy de la Bédoyère is moved by the haunted landscape of the Civil War

There's nothing like getting lost in the back roads of West Virginia to remind you of that great movie *Deliverance*, in which Burt Reynolds and his towne mates go hunting and get variously tortured and murdered by crazed hillbillies. So when a camouflaged man wearing shades and carrying a pump-action shotgun strolled out of the woods in front of us, we nearly passed out. In fact, all he did was wave.

Perhaps it was just that our imaginations were on overdrive, finding feverish inspiration in the implicit violence of our trail. We were taking a one-week trip around the Civil War sites of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, beginning in Washington DC.

For the English, the unpalatable fact about the eastern United States is that much of the countryside looks like the England of our fantasies. So it can be difficult to believe how much of the land around the American capital was torn apart by the Civil War between 1861 and 1865. The conflict has a compelling presence not just because "it's all the history they've got", but also because of the potency of the horror and the South's curiously charismatic adherence to the obscene creed of slavery.

We started off in DC, where we concentrated on the Ford's Theatre. It was here that Lincoln was assassinated in 1865. Americans have a gloriously frank appreciation of events, and no guilt is attached. Obviously, you would want to see the gun and Lincoln's stained jacket. Who wouldn't? So there they are in the free basement museum, along with a battery of other Lincoln paraphernalia.

Before making for the battlefields we wended our way across the stunning Chesapeake Bay Bridge, and then around eastern Maryland. After that we doubled back on the western shore of the bay to stay a day in Baltimore. The special features here are: a) no road signs, and b) an incoherent one-way system. One-way to the ghetto, as it turned out. Feeling slightly self-conscious in our hired car, we tried to make head or tail of the road map as the tension rose. The few shops looked like secured ammunition dumps and bootfairs were blazing merrily in rubbish bins.

If you survive, and make it back to Downtown Baltimore, you find mainly aquatic attractions: an aquarium (said to be the best in the US, and it was quite good) and the last ship (out of 101

still in the water of those at Pearl Harbour, the *Roger B Taney*. The Civil War trail is kept warm by the USS *Constitution*, built in 1854, the only ship left that saw service in the Civil War.

From Baltimore we headed north. The Civil War battlefields are generally in the guardianship of the National Parks Service, and have museums with presentations and self-guided driving tours. Once I had shed the Englishman's shame at being a tourist, I lapped it all up.

Gettysburg is a totally unprepossessing town in Pennsylvania. The battlefield spreads to the south, west and east of the town and is focused on the

By far the most touching exhibit is a water bottle from the war. Attached to it is a label recording how its owner, John D Cooke - a Unionist of the 95th Pennsylvania Regiment - gave a dying Confederate a drink from it at Crampton's Pass, Maryland, on 14 September 1862. It was signed by the 95-year-old Cooke in 1934.

The Gettysburg tour lasts several miles down winding roads that are lined, incongruously, with various monuments to the units and individuals who fought here. The climax is undoubtedly the Little Round Top, a small hill held by the Union against impossible odds, from Confederates turk-

Continental Bill Bryson describes it as the most shamelessly commercialised battle site. I have to say that that isn't how it appeared to me at all; instead I found it rather dignified and shocking.

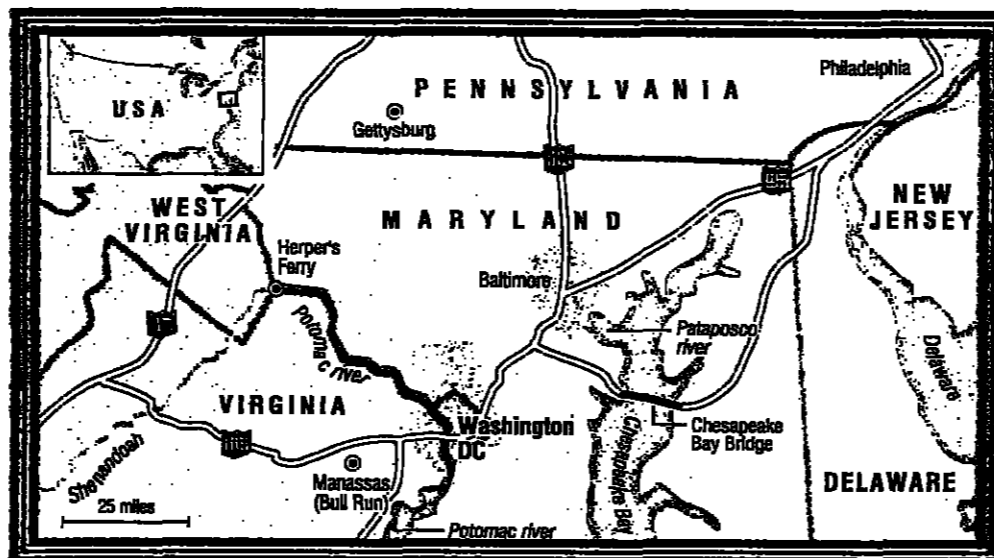
Not far to the south is Harper's Ferry, a small town which was once a major industrial and arms-manufacturing centre because of river power. Here the mighty Shenandoah meets the Potomac, and the states of Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia stare at each other across the rapids. The place is truly startling for its beauty.

Floods destroyed the last industry here back in the Thirties. But the National Parks Service has done an exceptionally good job of presenting the site, with demonstrations of gun-making and an outstanding audio-visual on John Brown's famous raid here in October 1859, which sparked off the war. He took a band of associates to liberate the slaves but succeeded only in killing a free black. In the ensuing battle with the US army, two of his own sons were killed.

Some shops here sell Civil War souvenirs, including bullets gathered from the battlefields. By some perverse set of values, an unfired bullet costs about \$10, whereas a battered, fired example costs only \$1.50. I can't imagine that anyone makes bullets now and then hits them to reduce their value, so I assume they're genuine. Enough were fired, after all.

On the way back to Washington Dulles airport we also visited the battlefield at Antietam; like Gettysburg it features self-guided tours and museums. At Antietam more than 23,000 troops were killed or wounded on a single day in 1862. If you ever thought ignorance was the excuse for the First World War, then the American Civil War teaches you that there was no excuse, no excuse at all.

British Airways, United Airlines and Virgin Atlantic fly daily between Heathrow and Washington Dulles. Guy de la Bédoyère paid £309 (including tax) for a United flight. Options for travel in the next few weeks from Heathrow include: £314.30 return on United through STA Travel (0171-361 6161), for students and travellers under 26; £326 on Air France via Paris with Flightwise (01-476 500089); £345 on British Airways through Major Travel (0171-485 7017). Washington DC Convention and Visitors' Association: 0181-392 9187; Virginia Tourism: 0181-651 4743



Visitors' Centre. This features an elaborate, if dimly lit, museum crammed with military relics, many of which were gathered laboriously from the fields by local farmers. The centrepiece is the "Electric Map" which, with recorded commentary, illustrates the battle's three-day progress in July 1863 with coloured red, blue and green lights.

Not everyone was convinced. I overheard a man (British, by the way) becoming annoyed with his wife: "You didn't pay attention." "I did." "Well what happened then?" "Lots of little green men were hiding in the woods." An exasperated exhalation followed.

ing below in the peculiar rock formation called the Devil's Den.

It was particularly striking to listen to the American visitors. Contrary to the European perception of the American tourist, they seemed universally interested and well read on the site. None, so far as I could see, felt the need to lock their cars at the various stops, and I couldn't spot any litter, either. But it is an American shrine, a memorial to the Union, to Lincoln and his Address, and to the folly of the South. Once beaten here, they never ventured into the north again. So perhaps it attracts the more discerning visitor. In *The Last*

Abraham Lincoln and the American Civil War

■ 1860 - Amid mounting North/South tension over slavery and other issues, Abraham Lincoln wins the presidential election. In December, South Carolina secedes from the United States.

■ 1861 - In January, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana also secede - and form the Confederate States of America (joined by Texas and, later, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee). In March Lincoln makes his inaugural speech calling for the preservation of the Union and warning that full power will be used to keep all forts belonging to the federal government. In April Confederate troops attack and capture Fort Sumter, a Union garrison in South Carolina. The Civil War begins.

■ July 1861 - Union troops are defeated at the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas).

■ 17 September 1862 - Battle of Antietam turns into the bloodiest day of the Civil War with 2,000 Northerners and 2,700 Southerners killed. Victory claimed by the Union. Five days later Lincoln issues a preliminary order to free all slaves.

■ July 1863 - Battle of Gettysburg lasts three days and is a turning point for the Union. In November, at a ceremony on the battlefield, Lincoln delivers his famous Gettysburg Address "... government of the people, by the people, for the people ..."

■ April 1865 - Confederate General Robert Lee surrenders, and Lincoln welcomes Louisiana back into the Union. Three days later Lincoln is assassinated at Ford's Theatre, Washington, by an actor and Southern sympathiser.

■ May 1865 - the last of the Southern troops finally surrender.



Simon Calder

In which I say
goodbye to a
17th-century
ferry service
that gave so
many a taste
of Abroad

At 10 o'clock last Monday morning, the mayor stood on the Halfpenny Pier at Harwich to say farewell. *Stena Europe*, the last conventional ferry to sail between the Hook of Holland and the Essex port hooted as she slid mournfully past, destination oblivion (see page 11). The farewell party comprised His Worship, me, a photographer, and a Scandinavian hiker who is about to walk around the coast of Britain and coincidentally chose to depart at the same instant as a maritime legend.

In fact, the photographer and the mayor were present to wish the hiker well, rather than to mourn the end of an epoch. So I paid my own private respects to a ferry service that began in the 17th century and has since borne many millions of British travellers across the North Sea for their first taste of Abroad.

Since I wasn't around in 1671, my acquaintance with the Harwich-to-Hook ferry began in the Seventies, when it was the impeccable young traveller's best bet for a quick(ish) getaway. With a ticket from the

Transalpino agency, you could travel from London to any station in Holland for £6. Even the most dazed of hippies realised that this was a tremendous deal: travelling on the overnight boat meant you (a) saved on accommodation and (b) arrived at Oldenzaal, the last station in Holland before the German border, in time for a full day's hitching. You could be in Hanover by teatime for an outlay equivalent to a couple of Led Zeppelin LPs.

Cut-price crossings to the Continent have always been a British speciality. Philip Robinson of Sheffield reports that his first flight was aboard a Skywings plane between Lympe in Kent and Beauvais in northern France in the summer of 1963. It was such a good experience that he repeated it the following year.

At around the same time, Silver City Airways operated a car-carrying freighter between the Kent airfield and Le Touquet - your Vauxhall Victor or Humber Super Snipe was loaded into the cavernous hold of a propeller plane for the short hop.

It wasn't cheap, but if you could afford a car then you could probably afford to fly it to Europe.

Ten years later, the cheapskate's fast track to Paris rejoined in the name "Silver Arrow" - a marketing trick involving a regular old Southern Region train to Gatwick airport, a cramped old twin-prop plane for a 20-minute hop to Le Touquet, and a diesel train for the long, 150-mile chug into Paris. The process seemed to take most of the day, but you saved a fortune compared with the new-fangled Trident plane to Le Bourget.

Then the going got weird. Does anyone admit to having travelled on the air-bus deal to Ostend? You caught a coach from Aldgate bus station in London to Southend airport, where you boarded a Viscount plane to the Belgian resort. Strangely, that route never caught on. Neither did the attempt to persuade us that the sophisticated way to reach Paris was to catch a train to Southampton, sail across to Le Havre on the overnight ferry and travel onwards by rail.

If you were really poor but really keen to get to Ireland, then the way to go was on the small ferry between Campbeltown in Scotland and Ballycastle in Northern Ireland. This involved about 300 miles of extra hitching compared with the more usual ferries across the Irish Sea, but saved you a very small fortune. The one-way fare being charged when it closed was, I think, 85 pence. When, on 1 July, the Argyll and Antrim Steam Packet Company resumes sailing on the route, the passenger fare will be £23 one-way.

Happily, British determination to get Abroad for less is unbending. From next Thursday, a flight from Stansted to Nyköping in Sweden is £104 return on Ryanair. If Nyköping has yet to feature on your wish-list of destinations, you should know that it is 60 miles southwest of Stockholm.

The same airline may soon launch services to those great international gateways of Charleroi and Beauvais, masquerading as Brussels and Paris - and feeding the British appetite for that satisfying combination of obscurity and economy.



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Smoke on the water

Even at sea level your head is in the clouds if your destination's Amsterdam. Simon Calder takes the new high-speed ferry from Harwich to the Hook of Holland



Peter Hedderly sailed off into a ship's sunset on the last Saturday night voyage aboard Stena Europe

From the deck we watched the departure, as the sun set and we slipped quietly out of port and into the history books. Down below we had a celebration à la carte dinner. The waiter, who'd been working the route for 23 years, said in a subdued voice as he presented our food, "Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to inform you that you are having the last supper" — with tears in his eyes. Many of the crew had been working the route since before I was born. Most are retiring, although some are going on to the freight ships (the new HSS is operated entirely from the Dutch side).

Harwich-Hook always was the route to the Continent, or to Germany, at least — so much more civilised than Dover-Ostend. Until quite recently you could get on a through car at the Hook and step off that same car in Moscow, if you so wished. Services have been so rapidly cut back that, for the past few years, you couldn't even get to Cologne without a change.

We live in a rapidly changing world where nothing stands still. I'd say most of Hook route passengers are now bound for Amsterdam, or at least no farther than Holland; probably most of those going beyond will stop off in Amsterdam anyway.

So the new service has a lot to offer. You can now leave Amsterdam well after midday and still reach London that evening. You could never have done that before. With more people travelling than ever, this historic route must have good times ahead. But it will never be quite the same.

The writer is a compiler of the *Thomas Cook European Timetable*

Everyone would earn a certificate commemorating their part in the first voyage of the hi-tech, high-speed vessel, promised the cheery Dutch announcer. She concluded: "Stena HSS Discovery — the only way to cross the North Sea."

That is, of course, tosh. Travellers crossing the North Sea these days can choose from ships operated by Color Line, P&O and Scandinavian Seaways, plus plenty of low-cost flights. Which is why the old ferry service from Harwich to Hook of Holland was replaced by an HSS catamaran. The initials stand for high-speed sea service; cruising at 40 knots, the vessel halves the previous crossing time. She also takes only 50 people to operate — one-quarter of the number working on the two ferries that she replaces.

The service subtly changes the shape of Europe, particularly for motorists who do not live in southern England. Suddenly, Europe is less than four hours away from Essex — no longer is it quicker to drive to Dover or Folkestone and take

one of the short sea crossings. Even those in and around London can benefit from the new link for trips to northern Germany or Scandinavia. Best of all, it should lead to heightened interest in the Netherlands.

Within 15 minutes of driving off the ferry you can be in The Hague, where the twee cuteness of the old town is neatly countered by the outstanding breadth and depth of art in the 17th-century Mauritshuis. Madurodam, "Holland in miniature", is a lot more fun than it sounds. And on the coast, the resort of Scheveningen is a jolly echo of Great Yarmouth, diametrically across the North Sea.

Foot passengers who see Hook and its surroundings merely as a gateway to the Continent will benefit from the shorter crossing times, though the timings of the new rail connections in Holland make some yearn for the civilised schedule of an overnight service: rail connections from the new evening sailing arrive in Amsterdam in the early hours, not a time when the Centraal

Station area is at its most enticing.

An airline-style check-in has been introduced: passengers no longer need to carry large bags aboard, because they are transported separately in large containers. Unfortunately the system has been accompanied by airport-style queues for check-in.

On board, the new, huge, high-speed catamaran is a lot more salubrious than the two ferries she replaces. Imagine an airport departure lounge, complete with bureaux de change, restaurants and fast-food outlets, drifting across the North Sea, and you get the picture. Prices for adequate grub are quoted in guilders, but translate to reasonable amounts: 80p for a coffee, £1.40 for a slab of pizza. A pair of cinemas screening new releases (*Liar, Liar* and *Scream* this week), and a disco on evening sailings, help to fill the journey time.

The question is: what precisely is the journey time? The Stena timetable says it will take three hours and 40 minutes. The two crossings I made on Monday took 10 minutes longer each way.

No one would be churlish enough to complain — except that the delays appear to be cumulative. Stena allows as little as 40 minutes to replace one consignment of cars and passengers with the next. At the end of the maiden voyage from Harwich, the turnaround at Hook of Holland took twice as long as allowed. So even though *Discovery* had begun the day on schedule, by the time the third voyage of the day ended she was running 90 minutes late.

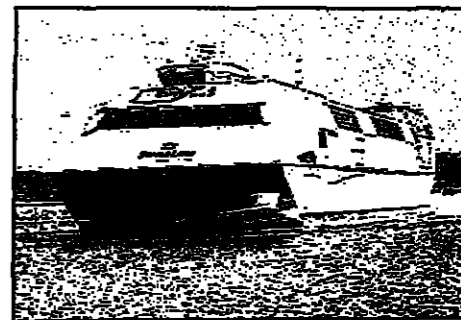
The vessel is operated by Stena Line Holland BV. I called the boss, Pim de Lange, to find out what had gone wrong. "People have been trained for the faster turnaround, but as you would expect on the first day we had some teething problems. As you can understand, it's quite a change and we need some operational experience." What about the journey time? "We are now running ahead of time. On Wednesday afternoon, for example, the morning ferry from Harwich arrived 10 minutes early."

With luck, that will mean no repetition of the strange experience I had at

Hook of Holland. I travelled on a "daytripper" ticket, price £19, which means that you reach Hook of Holland then turn around and come straight back. But you have to disembark at the port and get straight back on. The late arrival meant boarding had closed; I would have to stay overnight in Holland and return the next morning. Fortunately the Catch 22 was quickly resolved, and they let me back aboard.

But the knock-on effect of Monday's delay was felt even by innocent parties such as Norwich commuters. The Boat Train to London was obliged to wait for us, even though it was due to form the late-night train to Norfolk. Though I doubt any platform announcer would have the nerve to say so, the Norwich train genuinely departed late because of "operational difficulties in the Netherlands area".

The Stena HSS can be booked through travel agents or direct on 0990 707070. A special "car plus five" fare of £68 return is available on certain sailings.



Ocean ferry to canal boat: Amsterdam (top) is a four-hour trip from Essex when you take the high-speed, hi-tech Stena vessel (above) ADRIAN DENNIS

Flying on Friday 13th?

Superstition may lead us to choose a flight on another day. But are our fears justified? Ben Summers reports

It's Friday the 13th next week, but the planes will still be flying. Do superstitions apply in the air? Flying last Friday the 13th (December 1996) I found that they did.

Superstitions are not something people tend to boast about. One traveller I know carries a good luck charm in the shape of a small golden pig, which she holds tightly during take-off and landing. There must be thousands like her. Others will demand to sit in the back of the plane, something which has not been shown to improve your chances in the event of a crash — and then stubbornly study the carpet pattern or read the in-flight magazine as the safety drill is demonstrated by the cabin crew.

Even those coolly logical pilots are prone to the occasional irrational thought. The aviation writer Steven Barlay recalls a pilot he knew who added a ritual to his inspection of the aircraft before take-off. "There was one particular spot he always had to touch," says Barlay. "I think it was on the top left-hand side of the opening. He was not afraid of flying; he was not worried about it at all. But he would do it every time."

And could it be that Boeing's love for the number seven has anything to do with its traditional status as a lucky number? Would generations of Americans have been just as happy flying in a Boeing 666?

Manufacturers and airlines usually take no position on such issues. None admits to superstition among their staff. Of those we questioned, Qantas was in the vanguard of the rational flight. Not only did the company insist that none of its crew or pilots considered themselves superstitious, the airline also assured us that no member of staff had heard of a passenger being superstitious before or during a flight. No Qantas passenger has, apparently, ever been wary of the number 13 in flight times, flight numbers or seat row numbers.

British Airways and Air France were happier to acknowledge superstition — among passengers, at least. On the question of whether there were Air France passengers who feared the number 13, a France spokeswoman said: "Oh, I'm sure there are lots of people who'd prefer to take another flight rather than sit in seat 13."

To deal with this problem, BA has aircraft on which the row numbers jump from 12 to 14. The airline also reports cases of passengers asking for boarding cards to be changed if they find the number 13 on them, and of bookings dipping on Friday the 13th. British Midland also avoids seat rows numbered 13: "I don't think they were ever introduced," said a spokeswoman, unafraid to acknowledge the X-Files factor. Later the conversation turned naturally to the spirit world. "There are reports of the 'Teesside ghost' up at Teesside airport," she said.

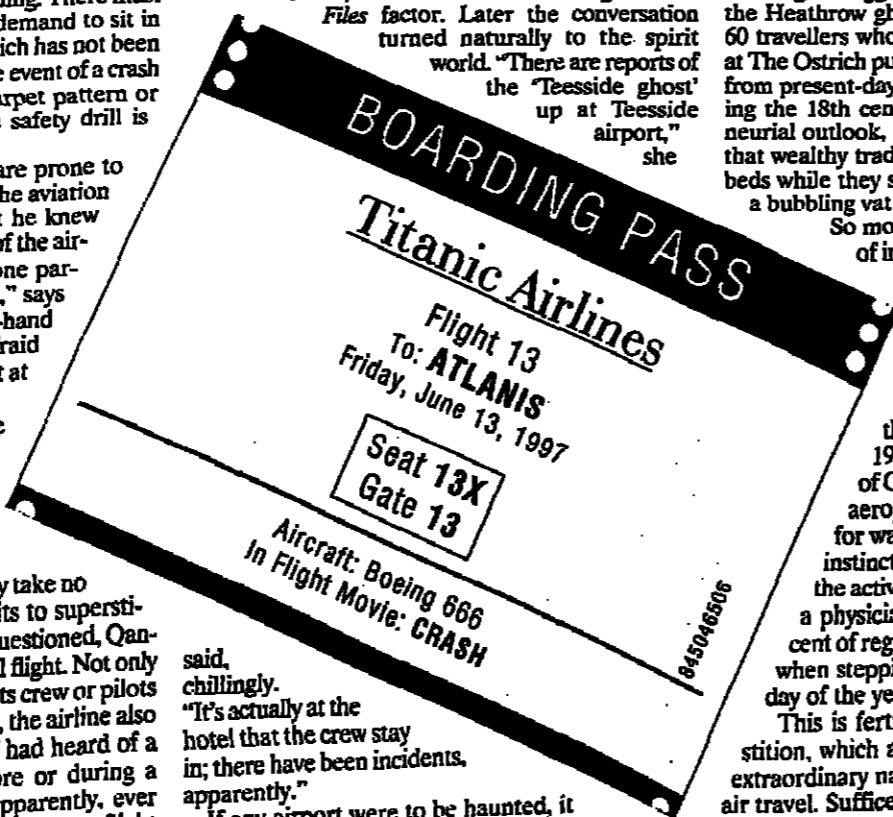
If any airport were to be haunted, it should be Heathrow. A ghost is occasionally mentioned, but no one seems to know who or what it is a ghost of. Travellers on the 13th should be aware that there are plenty of candidates. Highwaymen used to be strung up along the length of the nearby Bath Road. Violent highway robbery around what is now Heathrow Airport was once so common that there was a case in which an injured victim died

because his doctor was waylaid by another highwayman while coming to treat him.

Then there is the dead village of Heathrow itself, complete with a Saxon temple, lying beneath the concrete of the airport runways. The site of Hounslow barracks is nearby, where a soldier called Private White was flogged to death, an event that led to the banning of flogging in the British army. Or perhaps the Heathrow ghost has something to do with the 60 travellers who were boiled in oil over the years at The Ostrich pub in Colnbrook village, three miles from present-day Heathrow. A landlord there during the 18th century had an excessively entrepreneurial outlook, and arranged a room in his inn so that wealthy tradesmen could be tipped from their beds while they slept, through a trapdoor and into a bubbling vat in the room below.

So modern-day passengers with feelings of impending doom should count their blessings. No longer do rapid descents through the airspace of Colnbrook tend to lead to disaster. But the fact remains that all airline passengers are travelling in a far odder way than those who stay on the ground. In 1910, a minister was telling the House of Commons: "We do not consider that aeroplanes will be of any possible use for war purposes." Ninety years on, our instincts still haven't got the measure of the activity. According to Dr Alan Roscoe, a physician specialising in aviation, 80 per cent of regular fliers have some apprehension when stepping on to an aircraft, on whatever day of the year.

This is fertile ground for year-round superstition, which also tends to be nourished by the extraordinary nature of the statistics surrounding air travel. Suffice it to say that you are far safer in an aircraft than in a car (by a factor of 83, in the latest US research). In preparation for this Friday the 13th, *Independent* researchers trawled back through all the air accident reports of the Nineties. It turns out that the number of people who have died in air crashes on Fridays the 13th this decade is almost exactly the average for any other day of the year. Happy landings.



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JON WINTER

Water wheels

Jon Winter takes a bumpy ride into tranquillity along the Oxford Canal

James Starley has had to settle for being Coventry's second most famous resident. If he'd been an exhibitionist like Lady Godiva and ridden his newly patented lightweight penny-farthing naked through the city's streets, well, things might have turned out differently. As it is, Lady Godiva's statue stands in the city centre, and poor Mr Starley is stuck out next to Coventry's unsightly Ringway.

It seems appropriate that two-wheel enthusiasts embarking on an 83-mile canal-side ride from Starley's home town to Oxford should acknowledge the "father of the British bicycle industry". So, before setting off, pay a brief visit to Coventry's Road Transport Museum, which houses a huge collection of bicycles, ranging from Mr Starley's early models through to today's hi-tech machinery.

The journey starts just a short spin from the museum at the newly refurbished canal basin. Its careful restoration paints an encouraging, but inaccurate, picture of what is to come farther along, where you'll have to tackle unforgiving stretches of rarely trodden, impossibly overgrown towpath that make for a bone-shaking ride.

Heading first north along the Coventry Canal, you are treated to a canal-side tour of the city's once great industrial past. Plastic bottles, empty beer cans and this year's hatchlings bob about on the reflections of great redbrick piles that wouldn't look out of place on a Lowry canvas. (A former Coventry student, Tony Wheeler, this week upset the locals by describing the city as a "dismal" in his new Lonely Planet travel guide to Britain.)

The industrial demeanour, however, soon fades; duck under the M6 and make a right turn at Hawkesbury junction to join the Oxford Canal and a scene from an inland waterways holiday brochure. On two wheels you'll breeze along this fast section, passing smiling families on gaily painted narrowboats enjoying life limited to 4mph.

Rugby's outer suburbs fade in and out without ado. The pace soon settles to a steady pedal through a long rural stretch where the canal's loose curves and unkempt, tangled margins make it seem more like a river. With just the watery wildlife and the odd narrowboat for company, you find yourself beginning to share the feeling of freedom that inspires so many to spend their holidays puttering

along Britain's network of canals. Cyclists should make the most of this freedom while they can. Next month British Waterways plans to charge cyclists £12.50 for an annual adult permit to use the Kennet and Avon Canal towpath, setting a precedent that will be applied to all British Waterways canals in the near future, including the Coventry to Oxford towpath.

Nature gradually gains the upper hand as the trail becomes an overgrown, gruelling slog for the last few miles into Braunston, where The Boatman's canal-side terrace appears like a shimmering oasis. Built on the busy junction where the Grand Union Canal joins the Oxford Canal, it makes a perfect place to rehydrate and refuel in the company of other canal travellers.

Then on to Napton Flight and the first and only real incline on the ride, as the canal climbs 50 feet through a staircase of nine locks to its highest point (380 feet above sea level) before meandering wildly at this elevation for 12 miles across an area of Oxfordshire that a crow would fly only five to cover. Cyclists, however, soon gain the psychological edge as they pass Claydon Flight, from where

it's downhill all the way to Oxford (though the canal drops just 180 feet in 40 miles.)

At Cropredy, the route tags alongside the River Cherwell, confirming the style of canal engineer James Brindley, whose hallmark became canals that follow the natural contours of the land. Brindley steers this course pretty much all the way into Oxford, leading you through some charming villages in the rolling hills of Oxfordshire's Cotswolds.

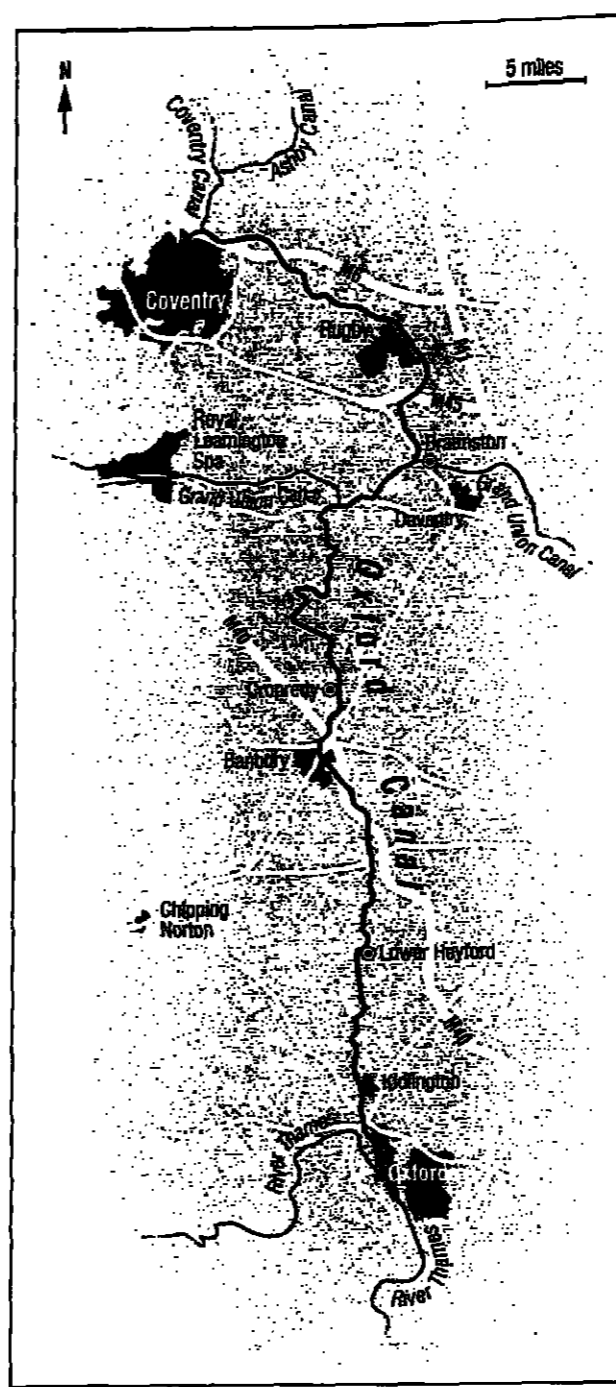
Approaching two-thirds of the distance, saddle-sore cyclists should take advantage when civilisation reappears in Banbury ("ugly" is Mr Wheeler's one-word description), before making the last big push.

With a bit of luck, and not too many punctures, daylight will be just fading as you make your final approach into Oxford. These last few miles of towpath are mercifully smooth and you can sense that you are nearing the city limits by an increasing population of new-age barge dwellers lining the canal banks. It looks an attractive lifestyle, made all the more appealing by an overwhelming desire to climb out of the saddle and rest your weary legs. The entire 83 miles of towpath make an absorb-

ing but fairly tough day's pedalling, perhaps more manageable if split up with an overnight stop at Banbury. Choice of wheels is also a consideration if you plan to cycle the whole route. The chunky tyres and general robustness of a mountain bike can prove useful through the hard-going terrain. If, however, you stick to the smooth, well-used sections through towns and villages, then any old bike will be adequate, although I wouldn't fancy my chances on one of Mr Starley's old clunkers.

A note on safety: Cycle helmets are advised as there are countless little brick bridges whose geometry is such that one lapse in concentration when ducking under them will leave you floating unconscious in the canal. Also, those wearing shorts must avoid encroaching nettles, although relief for stings can be found on the move by steering through the clumps of giant dock leaves that also line the towpath.

A Coventry to Oxford Canal map is available from Geo Projects (01734 393 567). Further information from British Waterways on 01788 890 666



Chain of events

National Bike Week begins today and continues until 15 June. Cycle-related events are taking place all over Britain. Today in Birmingham, for example, the Push Bikes organisation will be offering advice and can help you test-ride a recumbent bicycle in Victoria Square, between 10am and 3.30pm; 0121-632 6753 for more information.

On Tuesday evening in London, a "Rebels and Radicals of the East End" tour promises to take cyclists around the former haunts of Stalin, Lenin and Trotsky on a kind of socialism proficiency test. Turn up outside the Royal London Hospital on Whitechapel Road, London E1, at 7pm on 10 June; 0171-265 9095 for information.

The latest route in the National Cycle Network has opened unexpectedly early. The Hull to Harwich route covers 163 miles of eastern England, passing through Lincoln, Kings Lynn, Norwich and Colchester. Maps are available from Sustrans, the charity that is creating the network; call 0117-929 0888.

"West of the Hills" is the toughest of three bike routes around the Malvern Hills just published by the district council. It covers some of the ground where Edward Elgar cycled for inspiration earlier this century. For a free map and guide to the routes, call Malvern Hills tourist information centre on 01684 892700.

Two of the six best-buy bikes in a *Which?* survey last month were made in Britain: the hybrid Saracen Hy-way (£200) and the Raleigh M-Trax mountain bike (£270). The other four were all made in Taiwan.

Panama: "Due to the high crime rate visitors are advised to be on their guard when carrying documents and money. Where possible these should be deposited in hotel safes. Take care on buses and at bus depots. Robberies have occurred in downtown Panama City (Avenida Central shopping area), and tourist spots at the Plaza de Francia and Old Panama ruins. There are occasional hold-ups in restaurants. Visitors are advised to register at the British Embassy (269 0866). Do not transit the Darien Peninsula to/from Colombia" - Foreign Office.

Peru: "Although terrorist activity in Lima has dropped considerably



something to declare

in the last several years, the car bomb that exploded at the municipal offices in Ate-Vitarte on 15 May 15 demonstrates the still very real danger of terrorist attacks in Lima. Virtually all bombings in recent years have

Trouble spots Latin America

occurred in the evening and early morning hours. The most popular targets have been banks, post offices, public utilities, Peruvian government offices, and the homes of Peruvian government employees. Two embassies, one hotel and one multinational corporation have been bombed in the last three years. Selective assassinations have been carried out against police officers and public officials, particularly in the poorer communities around Lima" - US State Department.

Argentina: "There has been an

increase in thefts and robberies, sometimes involving violence. In Buenos Aires the most frequent problems involve bag-snatching and armed robberies in the street, in taxis and restaurants.

Be alert at all times: con-men have frequently robbed tourists while an accomplice pretends to help remove ketchup or mustard which has been 'accidentally' sprayed on them" - Foreign Office.

Guatemala: "Three highway bandits died after being lynched by villagers in the western

department of Huehuetenango. It was the latest in numerous incidents in the past 18 months in both Guatemala and Mexico in which citizens frustrated with inefficient and corrupt judicial systems have taken the law into their own hands" - AP.

Colombia: "The Colombian government has conceded for the first time that its security forces may have links with paramilitary groups. The government said it had lost control over large parts of its forces in areas where there was intense guerrilla and paramilitary activity. The government also said it agreed with US estimates that 250,000 soldiers and police offices

could be involved in human rights abuses" - BBC World Service.

Ecuador: "Ecuador has placed the Galapagos Islands under a state of emergency to prevent the nature reserve from losing its special United Nations status due to environmental deterioration. The measure seeks to limit human migration and the spread of alien species to the islands and preserve their environmental balance" - AP.

For Foreign Office advice, contact the Travel Advice Unit by telephoning 0171-238 4503 or 4504, or fax 0171-238 4545; on the Internet, at <http://www.fco.gov.uk>; or on BBC-2 Ceejax, from page 470

Rio prize

Gremlins struck our competition for two to win a week in Brazil. If you have answers for the three questions, send them on a postcard to Rio/Indie Competition, Journey Latin America, 16 Devonshire Road, London W4 2HD. There are no more questions. We have extended the deadline for entries until Thursday June 12. Our apologies for the mix-up.

Visitors' book

Olive's Guest House, Atkinson, Dominica, West Indies (001 809 445 7521); £7.50 per person per night, plus meals

Every day is the most wonderful day I've ever had ... and then tomorrow starts and is more wonderful still - *Kate Sturgess, Oxfordshire*

Olive is the best cook on the island, and the best herbalist - *Sissy Hiesmayr, Vienna*

The Garden of Eden, the food, the view and the knowledge of the island were greatly appreciated. PS: if ever in Canada, my home is your home - *Erroll Hind, Calgary*

Parfait: bel emplacement, bon repas, bonne discussion - *Noel Levat, Grenoble, France*

Petit Coulbri Guest Cottages, Dominica (001 809 446 3150); £40-£70 per person/night, plus meals

From all the stresses of life in London to this haven of peace and tranquillity - *Barbara Hill, Greenwich*

We are as sorry-as-a-peace-who-can't-get-his-tail-up to leave - *Christina and Paul, Seattle*

You have perfected the art of innkeeping. We appreciate all you've done for visitors to this tropical Scotland - *Phil & Holly Pharrar, Michigan*

Fawly: Towers this is not! - *Naomi & Dave Lee, Ontario*

Thanks for the most grooviest holiday I have ever had - *Debs, London*

Bargain of the week

Sir Freddie Laker will fly you from Gatwick to Miami for £99 each way, plus tax. This is only £17 more than the fare charged by Laker Airways, mark one. 15 years ago. The catches: tax totals £31 and a weekend supplement of £20 each way

applies, so you could end up paying £269 for the return trip. Book on 01293 789000; all travel must be completed by the end of June. A review of the service will appear in the travel pages of *The Independent* tabloid next Wednesday, 11 June.

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كلنا من الاصل

Chain of events

Canal-watching is a spectator sport at Miraflores, the first set of locks after Panama City. From

In utter contrast, Balboa has the feel of an affluent American suburb – basically because that's

The world's short cut - in the 83 years of its existence, the Panama Canal has carried 80,000 vessels

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK SPOLINE

The Bridge of the Americas, carrying the Pan-American Highway, frames the mighty ships that jostle for the front of the queue through to the Atlantic, and marks a suitably grand entrance to the Pacific for vessels completing the south-bound transit. This is truly one of the nodes of the world. Even if you stay on dry land, canals are excellent means to an end. And Panama, in all its jaw-dropping glory, is the finest means, with the finest ends of them all.

A map of Panama, Central America, showing the Panama Canal. The canal is depicted as a winding line connecting the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific Ocean. Major cities are marked: Colon, Panama, Balboa, and Miraflores Locks. The Panama Canal is labeled. A scale bar indicates 10 miles. An inset map in the top left corner shows the location of Panama within Central America.

Getting there: there are no direct flights between the UK and Panama City. South American Experience (0171-976 5511) has flights on Cubana via Havana for £501; Avianca via Bogotá for £531; or on Iberia via Madrid for £1 more. All these fares include tax.

Further information: British passport holders do not require visas. Limited tourist information is available from the Consulate-General of Panama at Panama House, 40 Hertford Street, London W1Y 7TG (0171-409 1255).

FAX: 0171 293 2505

[illegible]

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Overseas Travel Advertising also appears on page 10.

Yes, my knuckles were white

John Windsor braved the king of roller-coasters on a daredevil day at Blackpool Pleasure Beach

Been there. Done that. Up the 210ft steel tower of the Sony PlayStation in 1.5 seconds at 80 mph, clamped to a plastic seat, then down by free fall. Slowly up to the 235ft summit of the world's tallest and fastest roller-coaster, Pepsi Max Big One, then at 85 mph down the curves of its first drop, of the same height, at an angle of 65 degrees to the horizontal.

My daredevil day at Blackpool Pleasure Beach was not the kind of outing I would have chosen myself. It presented itself as a challenge, after the author/publisher Richard Savin had sent me a copy of his *White Knuckle Guide*, which contains £150.

worth of money-off vouchers. He and his 12-year-old son Charles gave me a couple of hours' training on the Flying Fish roller-coaster and the all-dark backwards roller-coaster X-No Way Out at Thorpe Park, Chertsey, Surrey.

These rides, only 21ft and 42ft high - nursery slopes, according to coaster aficionados - were not scary enough to dent my bravado when the Thompson family, owners of Blackpool Pleasure Beach, invited me to this week's launch of the £2m PlayStation-The Ride, first UK example of a new breed of hi-tech catapults.

Just watching customers being whisked skywards by PlayStation's compressed air,



Riding for a fall: John Windsor takes the plunge
PHOTOGRAPH BY ADRIAN DENNIS

Roll on

Andrew Hine, founder of the Roller-coaster Club of Great Britain, says you are 2,000 times more likely to have an accident on a flight to the United States than on a roller-coaster ride. And that two hours of normal home life is 10 times more accident-prone. It is horrified health and safety officials who have forced pleasure rides to become even safer than public transport. Which is why, even though high-speed high-rides may horrify you, you may soon find them hard to avoid. Mr Savin, publisher of *The White Knuckle Guide*, has formed a company to promote "variable level rail systems" as safe, speedy and cheap public transport. Eight are already operating, including systems at Birmingham and Gatwick airports and nine more are planned. So why not find yourself a nice old-fashioned woodie and get in training?

of the Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain and American coaster enthusiasts.

Riders of Nemesis are suspended beneath the track, with legs dangling. Mr Wardley says: "You get the extraordinary feeling that there is nothing between your feet and the ground - and then nothing between your feet and the sky."

"I'm not interested in the industry's blinkered view that the only way forward is through statistics of height, speed and g-force. If people get off one of my rides and say, 'that was terrifying, I wish I hadn't done it', then I consider that I've failed. I'm not out to terrify people. I'm an entertainer. I want to exhilarate them. Rides should provide surprise, mystery, laughter, amazement." His latest ride, at Port Aventura, is Stampida, a woodie whose twin racing trains seem about to collide head-on after switching directions in a tunnel.

The second edition of the *White Knuckle Guide*, price £2.99, with £500 in vouchers, is published on 23 June by Tideway Publications, PO Box 107, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4FQ. Send me to The Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain, PO Box 235, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3TF.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach, entry free, rides £1 to £4 (Pepsi Max Big One), Ocean Boulevard, Blackpool FY4 1EZ (01253-341033). Thorpe Park, Staines Road, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 8PN (01932-369393). Alton Towers, Alton, Staffordshire ST10 4DB (0990 20 40 60, or 01538-702200). Chessington World of Adventures, Chessington, Surrey KT9 3NE (01372-727227 and 01372-729560). Oakwood Park, Oakwood, Canaston Bridge, Northamptonshire NN4 6LJ (01834-891376, bookings 01834-891373). Drayton Manor Park and Zoo, near Tamworth, Staffordshire B78 3TW (01827-387979).



and listening to their post-ride remarks, put paid to my bravado: "Brilliant", "Terrific", "That's really taken the shit out of me." Especially as I had tried the Big One roller-coaster as soon as I arrived, and had come off it numbed.

What does the Big One do to you? You know you are in for it from the start, as the train of cars grinds inexorably towards the 235ft summit and people on the ground become dots. You are strapped to your seat, and there is a restraining bar clamped at your chest. As the track ahead disappears into blue sky, confused, split-second notions that what is about to happen is both safe and inevitable are mingled with sheer terror. At least, that's how it was for me.

The subsequent 65-degree dive, at 3.5 times the force of gravity, induced something like brain-death. But it is over in seconds, hardly time enough to feel frightened - until you approach the next drop, and the next bend, for about a mile. Do people really do this for fun?

There's a technique to riding, as I learnt while watching 94-year-old Doris Thompson, chairman of the 101-year-old family business and an intrepid rider since the age of three, being locked into shoulder restraints and fired to the top of PlayStation. At my side, while Mrs Thompson's legs dangled higher than Nelson's column as we waited for a helicopter with a camera crew, was PlayStation's designer, Rich Allen of the S&S Sports Power corporation of Utah, US. The first time you do it, the more you open yourself to the experience. You become less terrified and get a feel for it.

It made sense. The automatic camera shot of my ride on the Big One showed me with head down, gripping for dear life: that white knuckle thing is no myth. But the lads who ride it time after time wave their arms (against advice), shout jubilantly on the crests and look around, even down. Participate: that's the knack.

Upon descent, Mrs Thompson pronounced PlayStation "wonderful and the certificates held by the specialist instructors, and the 24-hour monitoring provided for first-time campers.

Nor is there any excuse for those who claim that their child just isn't the sporting type. PGL Holidays, celebrating 40 years of activity holidays, offer themes such as drama and media skills. Camp Beaumont (17 years into summer camping) runs day camps for children as young as three. Superchoice offers Internet adventures in "Cyberzone", or Mega Mix for children who prefer to mellow out.

Visiting Osmington Bay, the new Superchoice summer camp that opened near Weymouth this year, I stopped to admire the skills of a bespectacled teenager who had just launched himself off a platform 40ft above the ground. Secured only by ropes, he flew along the zip wire, cheered by his friends. "Way to go, Henry!" they yelled.

"How did that feel?" I asked him as he landed near my feet. "Great," he grinned. "Henry is 14; this is his first camp," said the instructor. "He was booked in for a Mega Mix holiday, which his mum thought would suit him better as it's less demanding, but because of the numbers, he joined our Teen Challenge. He's having a fantastic time."

Henry had just shot up in the esteem of his team mates, and, no doubt, his own. Way to go.

Residential summer camps operate throughout the summer holidays at sites throughout Britain. Escort services and short breaks are usually available and special diets catered for. One week's junior multi-activity costs £259 to £299, depending on accommodation; discounts for early birds and siblings. Details from Superchoice (01273 691100); PGL (01989 768768); Camp Beaumont (0171-724 2233).

Up the wall: Henry on the high ropes at Osmington Bay near Weymouth
PHOTOGRAPH BY DEBORAH JACKSON

'Quad biking was brill; abseiling was brill'

Packing children off to summer camp is the American way. We British have traditionally preferred to drag the kids on holiday with us, like it or not. And "not" is often the response of the bored 10-to-18-year-old. So what makes the British so reluctant to offload their offspring for some parent-free adventure? According to Lloyd Smith, managing director of Superchoice, an activity specialist which is expanding its American-style camps, middle-class guilt is the main culprit. "American parents

take the view that they don't want their kids to miss out on this wonderful experience which they grew up with," he says. "British parents talk of 'sending children away', rather than of giving them a chance to experience something new."

In a society that makes working mothers feel they are doing less than their duty, it may seem churlish to suggest that junior school children would benefit from even more time away from home. And what about homesickness? Is it worth the risk, in the name of holiday fun?

My daughter Frances was "sent away" to summer camp for the first time at the age of eight - an experience that held no trepidation for her, but left me feeling lost and apologetic when friends asked where she'd gone.

She telephoned after a few days, and in the space of 20p reeled off an exhausting programme: "Quad biking - that was brill - and abseiling - that was brill - and archery and Dragon Quest - cool - and laser quest... sorry, got to go now, Mum." "Would you like me to call you back?" I asked, trying to hide the emotion. "Well, not really, we've got a swimming gala, bye!"

Frances summer-camped again this year, but the ritual telephone call began quite differently: "Hello, Mum, I said a plaintive voice, 'I've got tummy ache and I've hurt my foot.'"

"Oh dear," I said. "Do you want me to come and fetch you?" "Oh yes," she said, sounding suddenly cheerful. "Come on Saturday." (This was my scheduled pick-up day - it was then Tuesday.) "Got to go," she added. "It's brill! We're going trampolining."

Frances has always gone with her best friend, but according to Andy Clague, Superchoice's summer camp co-ordinator, nearly 60 per cent of last year's intake came on their own. As for homesickness, they promise a pro-rata refund if a child has failed to settle in after two nights. "The thing is to stop homesickness before it starts," says Andy. "It's all to do with how you introduce them - the child who arrives last doesn't get the choice of bed, and may start to feel left out. We look out for things like that."

Last year, 1,500 children came to our camp, Little Canada. Of those, 14 went home due to homesickness. Some parents insist the child stays, whatever; others will be in the car before the child has put the phone down. One parent turned up at 11.30pm to collect his son without even saying he was coming. His son was absolutely fine.

Negatives about summer camp are mostly on the parents' side. Fears about safety and lack of supervision dog the anxious British parent, despite

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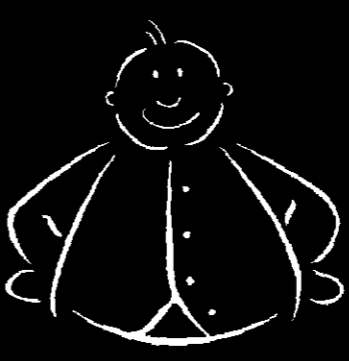
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One final similarity with Scotland: the weather was all to blazes. "Here it never rains after mid-May," someone told us – but boy, was he wrong! Every afternoon clouds massed, lightning snaked down, thunder cannonaded round the peaks, and phenomenal deluges set the granite gleaming. The result was that we usually reached base sodden, more convinced than ever that global warming is here to stay.

[illegible]

all consuming

How not to get in a flap
over cats20
Feeling Lush: The new
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Glamour and glitz, it's tea at the Ritz

An institution for the rich and famous for 91 years began to lose its sparkle, writes Meg Carter. But now, the Palm Court's back as the ultimate English tea



Time for tea

What is consumed in a year
of tea times at The Ritz

68,000 pots of tea

492,750 sandwiches

295,650 cakes

197,100 scones

The two women sit side by side in complementary Laura Ashley dresses. The elder, with pepper and salt hair meticulously drawn back into a chignon, pours tea for her companion who sits demurely, hands folded across her lap. To their right, an animated trio wash down their sandwiches and tea with glasses of champagne. To their left a couple of businessmen are in intense discussion, the scones and cakes before them an irrelevance. And behind them, the discreet ministrations of the waiters pass unnoticed.

Tea at The Ritz, 1997, and at first glance only the clothes have changed since London's most famous hotel first opened 91 years ago. The venue is still the Palm Court - an assault of pinks and gold leaf with Ionic columns crowned by a windowed dome that makes the room's interior light and airy. Guests sit on rose-coloured Louis XVI chairs at meticulous pink tables. Tea is taken on Royal Worcester fine bone china with the original blue "forget-me-not" pattern. Ladies are still encouraged to wear hats while men must come in jacket and tie: jeans and trainers are resolutely banned. And in the background, a pianist plays "You Must Remember This..."

Scratch the surface, however, and you will find a great British institution grappling with change - because despite being more popular than ever (you must now book two to three weeks ahead for a table for afternoon tea on weekdays and a staggering two to three months ahead for weekends) The Ritz is acutely conscious of the dangers of becoming a relic. It's a matter of balancing traditions with contemporary appeal, Ritz London spokeswoman Georgina Sullivan explains. "Following a change of management 18 months ago when former owner Trafalgar House sold out to the Barclay Brothers, new investment has been directed to making



The Ritz's Palm Court is an assault of pink and gold leaf with Ionic columns

The Ritz more customer-friendly." She candidly adds: "Before then, a lot of people had commented on the fact The Ritz had lost its sparkle."

Which explains why, should you choose to visit The Ritz for afternoon tea, you will find a more contemporary style of food on offer. Along with 14 different types of tea - from Ritz Traditional English to Earl Grey and China Oolong - the staple of finger sandwiches, scones and cake selection has been jazzed up with the addition of speciality breads like caraway seed and sundried tomato. Sacrilege? Hardly.

The Ritz has always been in tune with the times. After all, why else would it have proved so popular with fashionable society for more than nine decades?

The Ritz was opened in May, 1906, by Cesar Ritz, 13th child of an Alpine shepherd and a former waiter. It was the first place in London where young ladies could take tea alone. Barbara Cartland, the romantic novelist, was a regular shortly after the First World War when, she observed: "One could meet men without chaperones, for lunch and tea. So you had lunch with

the men you were keen on, and tea with the rest." Edward and Mrs Simpson had tea here. And the Hollywood greats came throughout the Forties and Fifties, along with the Aga Khan, Burt Lancaster, Adam Faith and Selina Scott are more recent regulars although of others the hotel staff remain suitably tight-lipped.

Discretion lies at the heart of The Ritz's appeal, you see. Not only is one guaranteed privacy (no photography is allowed when the Palm Court is in use) but discretion extends to the style of service which,

while formal, is neither intrusive nor stuffy - which cannot be said of some of its rivals, like Claridges or The Savoy. The Palm Court's 14-strong team of waiters, led by Master of Ceremonies Michael Twomey, who has worked the tea room for the past 51 years, are part of the appeal. Ms Sullivan claims. "Many people come to see them - it's like having tea with old friends."

Franco Baratta has been serving tea in the Palm Court for 37 years. Taking tea at The Ritz has never been more popular, he says: "We have around 500 calls a day from

people trying to make reservations. The phone starts ringing at 7am..." Each day, the Palm Court stages two tea sittings - at 3.30pm and again at 5pm - which means a total of about 180 teas on a weekday, 230 a day at weekends. To save you the calculation, this equates to just under 70,000 teas a year taken by a broad cross-section of clientele. There are infrequent visitors up from the country for the day as well as regulars who come every month. There are the titled ("The Royal Family? I've served them all," Mr Baratta proudly reveals) and there are tourists. "Many come from America, many from Japan. And since the Channel Tunnel opened, we've found a lot of people coming over from France, Holland and Belgium - it's so quick now to come to London for tea."

The reason why is harder to equate. At £21 per head for set tea, it's surely more than for the novelty, so what exactly is the appeal? Mr Baratta smiles. "I've been here almost 40 years and I'm still trying to work out the appeal," he confides. "It's the name. The room. The place - everything. It's something special."

People come for the attention to detail, Ms Sullivan believes. "Since the Barclay Brothers bought us, we've been working hard to bring this back. In retrospect, The Ritz always needed private ownership rather than becoming lost in a chain." The Ritz may not be the grandest place to take tea in London, but it makes up for that in quality and style, she insists. "Tea shouldn't be a sombre affair - it's about chatting, it's a social interlude. We are trying to bring back tea as an event that doesn't have to be a special occasion." The intention? To make it less formidable. And neither price, nor queues, she insists, should deter.

Tea is served in the Palm Court at The Ritz daily at 3.30pm and 5pm and costs £21 per head.

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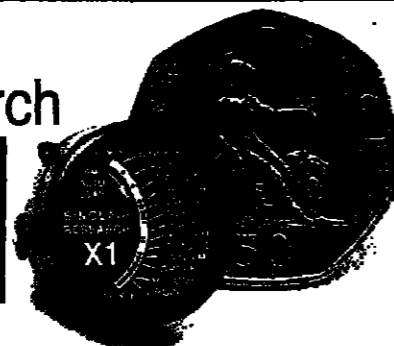
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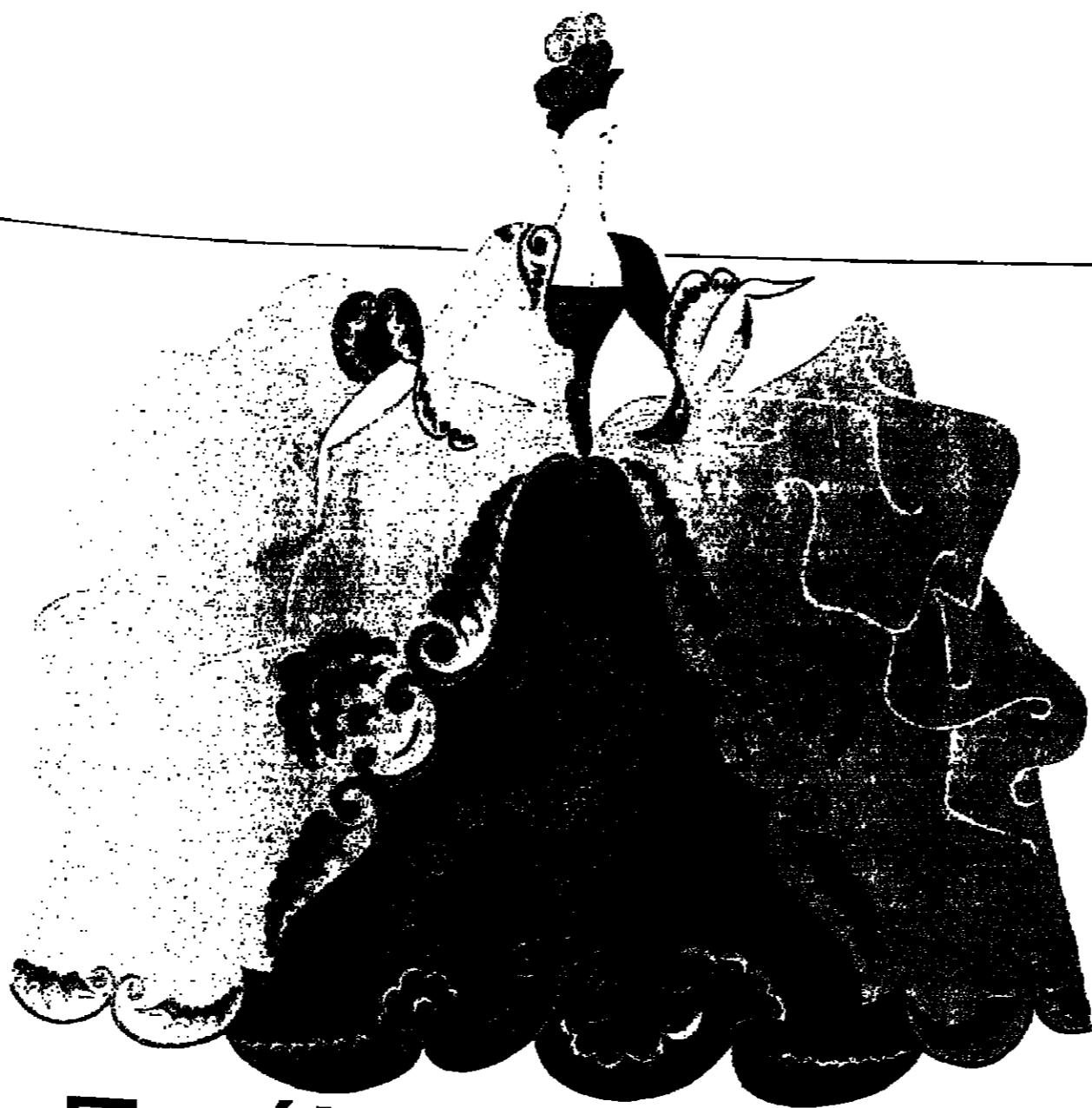
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Ritz

Dancers' costumes from Twenties night-club shows, by a peerless theatrical designer, are to be sold at Christie's, reports John Windsor



Erté's gay Paree

A unique collection of exotic topless costumes by the French designer Erté, worn in floor shows in Paris nightclubs in the Thirties, is for sale at Christie's South Kensington next week.

Erté - real name Romain de Tiroff (1892-1990) - was the most famous theatre and fashion designer of his day. His scanty costumes, with sequins, coloured ostrich plumes and imaginative appendages, were designed to amaze and amuse middle-class Parisians. But for British tourists in our grandfathers' day, they epitomised the naughtiness of gay Paree.

The 22 lots in this lovingly preserved collection, "the property of a gentleman", were mostly worn by women performers at the Bal Tabarin in Montmartre. The night-club's owner, Pierre Sandrini, was the son of the prima ballerina Emma Sandrini. He introduced ballet to his floor shows, and Erté's

designs transformed them into spectacular tableaux.

There was a new show every year, each with a theme, such as *The Planets* or *The Symphony*; some were inspired by historical figures such as Cleopatra and Madame de Pompadour.

In the sale, two lots of leopard and tiger costume pieces, with tall headdresses, flowing trains and padded tails - but nothing to cover the torso - are estimated at £150-£200.

There are 10 halter-necked body stockings from *Métal*, one of the most successful Thirties ballets. They are densely embroidered with gold and pink sequins in the form of cogs. The same lot includes eight bodices with simulated pearls, trimmed with ostrich feathers, and a collection of undergarments including a novelty bra in the form of a cat's head. The estimate is £100-£200. All the costumes

in the sale are still wearable: most of them are sizes 10 and 12. A Ceres costume with simulated ears of wheat, for *The Planets* of 1937, is estimated at £150-£200, and flowing capes with wave designs from *La Mer*, also 1937, £700-£800. A lyre costume with a platform waist and tassels, dated as late as 1945, is estimated at £150-£200.

Erté's long career spanned designing costumes for Mata Hari in 1913 to designing costumes and sets for Glyndebourne's *Der Rosenkavalier* in 1980. The revealing costumes to be auctioned give no hint that he was the creator of unisex fashion in 1926. But he was.

The Erté costumes will be lots 79-100 in Christie's South Kensington's sale of fine costume and needlework, Tuesday, 2pm, at 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (0171-581 7611).

Erté's phenomenal creative output extended from stage to catwalk. Left, his costume for the show 'Casanova' at the Scala in Berlin, 1930. Below, left to right, costume for the Folies-Bergère, 1920; Ceres for 'The Planets' at the Bal Tabarin in Paris, 1937; Octopus for 'The Bottom of the Sea' at the French Casino in New York, 1946, and the Lantern-bearer for 'The Treasures of Indochina' at the Alcazar music hall in Marseilles in 1922

Under the counter with Lindsay Calder

Who's afraid of the farty-breath bug?

I think it was the moment when my husband said "we'd better give Dad power of attorney while we're away" that really did it for me. Spending a month in South America had been gradually losing its appeal ever since I'd paid for the flights.

At first I spurned Cornwall and the Costa del Sol as not exotic enough, but sod that - come rain, come grockles, come fish and chips, at least the odds are high on returning home from the holidays. I confess it was my idea to take this extended "holiday" - I'd read the guidebooks, and had no qualms whatsoever, but as soon as they get to hear of your impending trip, the holiday terrorists come out in force, and vie with each other to recount the most gruesome anecdote about your destination.

I've spent £160 on vaccinations, and have so many holes in my arms that, if my body weight were halved, people would be forgiven for thinking I were a supermodel. But jabs are not enough. The favourite "you'll never guess what I caught there" illness is giardiasis. Three people have told me about it, and I don't want to know any more. I had never heard of giardiasis until a friend's boyfriend caught it. When I asked what it was, she explained in a most serious tone: "well, it's awful - you burp farts". It wasn't so much his health she was concerned about; she was most put out that she had to sit next to him on the 14-hour flight home. Others have described the condition as "Coca-Cola bottom". Please, please God, don't let me catch this.

Then, there's the infection you get if you pee into stagnant water (why you would want to, I don't know, other than because it makes a nice sound) and little micro-things swim "upstream" into your body. I was told this by a woman who is known at the company, where she is a director,

as "the simple housewife", so I didn't pay much attention when she gleefully told me I must "pee through a tea-strainer". A rather more convincing source trotted out this same advice yesterday, so I'm beginning to believe it. But the most startling comment came from an alarmingly dippy lawyer I know. "Where are you going?" Oh, lovely. Friends of mine went there last year. He died after week, but I think they were having a lovely time.

Look out bandits, mosquitoes and farty-breath bugs, because I have been doing some serious shopping: khaki army trousers with drawstring ankles to keep the creepy-crawlies out, £19.37, from Laurence Corner. Zoom headlamp for hands-free nighttime jungle ablutions, £24.99; Belt Bank, a belt with interior zip to stash the cash and fool the desperados, £9.99; Pur Potable water purifier, to eliminate giardiasis cysts, £54.99; all from the Survival Shop. Lifestyle impregnated mosquito net, £28.95; Expedition 100 (maximum strength) insect repellent, so dengue fever doesn't interfere with our itinerary, £5.99; Swiss Clean wipes, to wipe absolutely everything, £2.99; all from the Porter Nash Pharmacy. Emergency sterile medical kit, £17.50; Immodium, box of 18 (I've got four boxes), £5.99; Boots.

I don't have room for any clothes at all, now that I've packed that lot, but I've got to make space for a couple more things: a tea strainer, and a packet of extra strong mints for the flight home.

Laurence Corner, 62-64 Hampstead Road, London NW1 (0171-813 1010); The Survival Shop, 11-13 West Colonnade, Euston Station, London NW1 (0171-388 8353); Porter Nash Pharmacy, British Airways, 156 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-434 4700).

A life of facts

What we spent on private health and fitness clubs and home fitness equipment	£m
1991-96	
1991	572
1992	577
1993	596
1994	640
1995	711
1996	780

Participation in sport and exercise, November 1996

I play sport or exercise at least once a week because I enjoy it	22%
I play sport or exercise at least once a week because I think I ought to for my health/fitness	7%
I play sport or exercise occasionally because I enjoy it	11%
I play sport or exercise occasionally because I think I should for my health/fitness	6%

ADWATCH: Audi breaks fresh ground

The hand-over of Hong Kong to Chinese rule is the topical backdrop to the £4.5m launch of Audi's new A6 car which broke on TV earlier this week. The ad says as much about Audi as it does about the new model, the company insists. But what does it say about the state of British car advertising?

Action takes place on a rickety fishing boat approaching south Chinese waters. Harbour police stop it and search for illegal goods smuggled from the West. A voice-over talks of the impact of consumerism on Communist societies. The impassive crew watch in silence as the police leave empty-handed. The boat sails on.

Cut to the waters beneath the fishing boat's wake and we see it is towing a canvas-wrapped load. Next shot is a warehouse by a quayside where the wrappings are removed to reveal the new A6 in all its glory. Some consumers are one step ahead, the voice-over explains, as the car is seen tearing along a Chinese road. *Vorsprung durch Technik*, as the Chinese say. It may not sound like



much, but this ad is little short of revolutionary. All too often car ads are sammy and bland - slick motors racing along country roads. Or, for a bit of variety, blistering deserts. Or even burning fields. Admittedly, the Nineties have bred a new genre with "new men" lulling screaming babies to sleep with the purr of their car's engine. Or racing effortlessly to the hospital as their wives were giving birth. Or fantasising about furive snogs on the bonnet with ... their wives.

Yet ads that really stand out are few and far between. Some have tried too hard. Like Rover. Its latest ads feature a bomb disposal expert driving to his next job. (The Rover is as smooth as the touch required to dismantle the bomb, you see.) A second ad, with a blindfolded hostage released by turbaned tribesmen in a mountainous land, was withdrawn last week following complaints about taste.

There are, however, a few exceptions. Such as the

launch campaign for the Ka, which teased the audience with glimpses of the product and a host of apparently unrelated imagery. And Audi, which has adopted a more cerebral approach. Recent Audi campaigns rely on understatement - not an obvious advertising strategy. In the classic A4 commercial, a gauche yuppie test-drives the car, spouting all manner of grating Eighties aspirations before conceding that it's not his style. In last year's launch ad for the A3, the car is seen

driving towards a gauntlet of advertising clichés: falling rocks, fire and brimstone. Instead of continuing, the A3 driver turns back. "If you want stunts, go to the circus," the strapline dryly observes.

The agency behind these ads, Bartle Bogle Hegarty, calls it an "antidote" to traditional car advertising. "Why be restricted by set agendas, is the message of the A6 launch campaign," an account manager, Richard Exon, explains. "It's about questioning the status quo."

Audi's marketing director, Neil Burrows, adds: "It is getting harder for a new car's advertising to break through in an original way. Hopefully, our approach really will be unexpected."

The new A6 is important for Audi, he explains. "It does a job for the whole Audi range. With its bold and striking design, we hope the A6 will underline what Audi stands for: style, class, reliability and good design."

Whether prospective buyers agree remains to be seen, but one thing's for sure: they'll be likely to remember its name.

Meg Carter

THE INDEPENDENT

Hardwood Garden Furniture from £ 59.99 (inc. carriage).

Ideal for outdoor and conservatory use, this high quality garden furniture is exceptional value.

The furniture is made from Baglithan, a heavy hardwood timber from sustained forestry resources, sanded to a smooth finish and treated with teak oil to enhance its looks and durability.

Constructed to a high standard, using mortise and tenon joints, it can be left outdoors in all seasons and requires minimal maintenance - just a coat of teak oil once or twice a year.

The 4ft (122cm) bench costs £ 89.99, and the 5ft (152cm) is just £ 99.99. The chairs cost £ 69.99 and are 62cm wide. Both benches and the chair, measure 90 cm high by 62cm deep. The coffee table costs just £ 59.99 and measures 90cm long, 45cm wide and 41cm high.

The furniture is delivered flat-packed but each item is easily constructed from four separate pieces which slot together to give a professional finish. UK mainland carriage is included in the offer price.

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Getting in a flap over cats ...

What a bad time it is for cats. Humphrey, the Downing Street cat was almost run-over by the Clinton cavalcade. Then there were bizarre revelations of Princess Michael using traps to catch strays in the hallowed precincts of Kensington Palace.

But whatever ones sympathies, there is no doubt cats can be a nuisance. When my cat, Rocky, messed on the rush matting in the bathroom last week, my impulse was to conceal the crime rather than risk another "Give that cat away/Off with his head" tirade from my husband. But it proved impossible to clean. I had to cut out the smelly patch, and was found by hubby looking for a sharp knife in the cat-bedewed tool box. "The cats been in the bathroom again. Have you seen the Stanley knife?" I asked. "You don't need a knife," came the tart reply. "The vet will put him down painlessly for you". Rocky, eavesdropping, recognised his insulting tone and took a swift revenge. His hands trousers were draped high on the bedpost. He heaved his aching joints on to the bed, and must have twisted himself round that bedpost in an acrobatic leap to water the trousers.

Is there no cure for such cattiness? Can I save Rocky? I asked some experts.

"It's unusual," said the pet behavioural expert Peter Neville, author of *Cat Behaviour Explained* (FAB Publications, £8.99). He doubted that Rocky, a placid neuter, had a personal vendetta against my husband. The emotional bits of cats brains aren't as highly developed as a dog's. "Has your husband changed smell? Aftershave? Is he stressed at work? If you have tiffs, it can set the cat off. He's trying to associate his mark with your husbands. It may be innocent - if your husband brought in an old cat scent once, even if it's gone away, he associates the scent with his."

Peter explained that Rocky could be treated by a pet counsellor like himself if a vet were to refer him, with fees reclaimable from pet insurance. He might prescribe an anti-stress drug similar to Prozac. Maybe my husband could become more cat user-friendly by feeding Rocky every day.

"Then there are two possible areas of ultimate disaster," Peter continued.

"One, that your husband takes a swing at the cat."

What can you do to keep the peace and stop the pee? Jane Furnival tries to control some wayward cattiness



Audrey Hepburn and her ginger co-star in 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' (1961)

(Unlikely.) "Second, that it becomes a natural ritual for your cat to pee and poo on your husbands things, and he gets anxious if he doesn't."

So what can I do to keep the peace and stop the pee? There are cheap sprays that are supposed to deter cats from your house and garden, though I have never found an effective one, perhaps because many of them need to be applied daily and I give up too fast. Sainsbury's Homebase has a variety, from Pepper Dust at £2.99 to Bio Ready to Use Cat and Animal Repellent Spray at £3.79.

But the industrial-strength spray is called Felway, available from vets at about £13.50 for a 60ml bottle. You spray it on the items or places the cat favours for his toilet. Felways Marketing Manager, Ronnie Leggat, revealed that many share my cat's problem.

"People think they are the only ones to suffer," he said. "But our research shows that one in three cat owners has this problem. People put up with it, on average, for 55 months before seeking help."

Cats have specific *bêtes noires*. He once received a desperate call from the owners of a Siamese whose urinary dexterity had put paid to two camcorders, a microwave, a toaster and a kettle. Another owner found her Safeway carrier-bags of food soaked, the moment she came home with them. Ronnie Leggat suspects that some substances, such as plastic bags and warm electrics, give off smells which the cat confuses with other cats urine. So it resprays them to name-tag the places as its own.

Cleaning up with bleaches or detergents may also encourage them to go again in the same place. The ammonia in cleaning fluids has a urine-like smell. "Clean up thoroughly with a biological detergent, then fill a plant mister with surgical spirit and spray the area," advises Clare

Tickner of the Feline Advisory Bureau, which publishes two free leaflets on the subject, *Indoor Spraying Problems and Indoor Toiletting Problems*. "Cats rarely spray near their food, so put small tubs of dry cat food at their favourite sites. Stick the food down to stop the cat eating it." Other tactics include putting down pine cones of tin foil on the area. Never rub a cats nose in its doings, or tell it off, the FAB advises. It just makes them feel more insecure.

RSPCA vet David Grant thinks this complaint is the province of classy cats. "You see this behaviour in emotional cats, such as tortoiseshells, Burmese, Siamese, Abyssinian and, yes, British Blues." He warns that it's a self-perpetuating problem unless you clean well.

"A cat urinates out a particular pheromone when it is stressed out. The smell of this reinforces the desire to pee there again."

If the smell lingers, what can you do? I have found that Ambi Pur air freshener, a real perfume bottle you plug in, is effective. The eucalyptus variety is best; the floral smells like cheap aftershave. Sue Phillips, of Classic FM's *Gardening Forum*, suggests Shaws No-Stain, an "amazing" clear liquid which removed all traces of her cats active dislike of a visitor.

Others have problems with intruder cats coming into their house or garden and leaving a marker scent.

Take a robust approach. Spiky plants will deter cats from using your flower beds. Spread out the cuttings from raspberry plants. Clear the area of cat-attracting plants such as catnip and catmint.

In extreme cases, there is always ambush. "A water pistol is useful," suggests Clare Tickner. The problem of cat burglars in the house is solved by using a Staywell 32 cat door, which gives cats a magnetic door key worn on a collar that releases the door catch only to them. There are several different colour codes of door key, and I found that a neighbouring cat was getting in because its owners had by chance bought the same colour for their cat. I got round this by writing to Staywell, who obligingly changed my unit free of charge.

The deluxe animal repellent, says Sue Phillips, is Catwatch Mark Two. This is an electronic box that emits an unpleasant noise if a cat comes within 40ft. Birds and humans can't hear it, and you can use it inside or outside the house.

• *Felway Natural Spray costs from £13.50 from vets. For more information, contact Sanofi Animal Health, PO Box 209, Rhodes Way, Walford, Hertsfordshire, WD2 4QE (01923 212212).*

• *The Feline Advisory Bureau leaflets, *Indoor Toiletting Problems and Indoor Spraying Problems*, are free if you send a large sae (and preferably a small donation). You can also order Peter Neville's book, *Cat Behaviour Explained*, at £8.99 including p&p. FAB, Taunton, High Street, Tisbury, Wiltshire SP3 6LD.*

• *Staywell 32 cat door with cat door key on its collar costs £42.50 from The Pet Pavilion, Chelsea Farmers Market, Sidney Street, London SW3 6NR (mail order: 0171-376 8800).*

• *Catwatch Mark Two, £49.99. Call 01763 244266 (Concept Research) for stockists and mail order details.*

• *Get a list of cat counsellors from the Association of Pet Behavioural Counsellors, 01386 751151. If you are referred from a vet, you can reclaim fees (average £40) from your pet insurance.*

• *Ambi Pur air freshener costs about £3 from Waitrose and other supermarkets. Refills, about £1.85.*

Pictures taken from 'Cat World - a Feline Encyclopedia' by Desmond Morris (Ebury Press, £30)



The time ...

Saturday, 7 June 1997

The place ...

The South of England Show, Ardingly, West Sussex. Tickets £9 adults, £5 senior citizens/students, £3.50 children

The essentials ...

Although this is one of the country's biggest agricultural shows you don't have to be a farmer to go. Set in the heart of rural West Sussex, Ardingly gives city dwellers a chance to sample the great



outdoors and see what a British BSE-free cow actually looks like. But before you start checking the dimensions of your fridge freezer and car roof-rack, as you imagine a juicy fillet steak with tartar sauce, this cattle is not for sale. Along with the pedigree sheep, these prize winning specimens are for show only. You can buy smaller animals like ducks, which cost between £10 and £15 and apparently make ideal pets, although they're also great served with a tangy orange sauce. Vegetarians though may prefer to sample the home made produce, such as



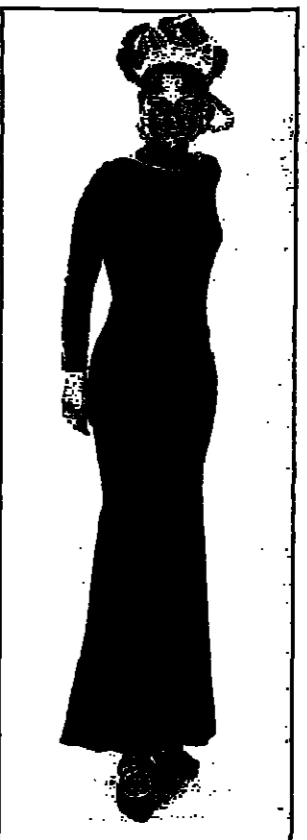
preserves which start at £1.75 and cakes from 50p. If as a child you dreamt of driving a shiny red tractor this is the place to turn those fanciful thoughts into reality. You can pick up a spanking New Holland Series for just £54,000.

Or a woolly jumper: buy a classic chunky knit Acorn jumper with a lamb or horse motif for £49 from the Yeovil Sheep Skin Shop stand or by mail order on 01935 423468. Or green wellies: Try Kevin's Men's Wear stand where basic PVC boots cost £10.99 or £34.00 for the Hunter and Huntress buckled brand, or phone 01373 822145.



Then relax with the real flavour of the country with some additive and preservative-free cider at £2.50 from the Norfolk Cider Company or by mail order 01953 860533.

Janet Knight



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No soft soap, just home-made bakes and stacks of cakes

Lush has gone from cottage industry to international name, writes Meg Carter

It's fast becoming known as the Nineties Body Shop. Lush, purveyor of fresh and handmade cosmetics, bath and body products, already has seven branches in the UK with four more opening in coming weeks and a growing presence overseas. Paris is next on the cards following successful openings in Vancouver, Toronto and Sydney. Lush has even reached Croatia, too.

Not bad for a team who just three years ago were out of work (and pocket) following the collapse of their previous business, the mail order operation Cosmetics to Go. With little else to do, they gravitated back together and began mixing cosmetics by food processor in the Poole kitchen of Lush's managing director, Mark Constantine. In 1995, the first store opened in Poole. With its striking displays of soap hunks piled high like cheeses, fresh face packs served from ribbing bowls, deli-style, and bath salts and shampoos stacked like rows of cannon balls, Lush quickly caught on. A debut in London's Covent Garden followed soon after.

Growth since has been rapid - fuelled by the founders' commitment to hand-made, fresh produce. Enzymatic, a Papaya cleansing treatment, Aroma-

Bread, a bread-based face mask, and Red Rooster, orange- and spice-based soaps, are typical creations. No ingredient has been animal-tested, most are fresh. Packaging is kept to a minimum. Visiting the stores is more like popping down to the local bakery than shopping at Boots or even Lush's closest spiritual rival, Body Shop. Constantine and his colleagues are, in the truest sense, a cottage industry. So how will Lush retain its unique style in the face of such dramatic growth?

Constantine affects reluctant acceptance of the chain's dramatic growth, suggesting consumer demand rather than barefaced ambition is dragging Lush into high streets across the land. However, he is wise to be cautious. "We've been up all the ladders and down the snakes right back to the beginning of the board," he explains.

"We've had our share of success." And failure, too. Having supplied the Body Shop for years with his own inventions, such as Ice Blue Shampoo and Peppermint Foot Lotion, his Cosmetics to Go became a victim of its own success when, unable to fulfil orders, it went into administration. It is now owned by someone else.

There may be little to prove, but they still have a liv-

ing to make. Which is why Lush has already done things differently to Body Shop in its early days. "If you don't like the principle of packaging, you get rid of the box, cellophane and instruction leaflet - getting it down to the minimum bottle and labelling with a good product inside," Constantine explains. The next step? "Something solid, with no packaging at all." And there's more: "Next is no preservatives. But you can only do this if your products have no water content. So we developed solid bars of shampoo."

"Natural" is not the issue although it is important. Which is why Lush does use some synthetic materials. "People like their shampoo to lather," he explains. "My belief is when people ask for 'natural' what they really mean is 'safe'." As no ingredients or products, for that matter, have been tested on animals, all rely on simple, basic ingredients. "If you want to stick to this it's simple: you choose materials that are known quantities, like bananas."

This is underlined in the Lush Manifesto, reproduced in every edition of the customer newspaper *Lush Times*. "We also believe in making our fresh products by hand, printing our own labels and making our own

fragrances," the manifesto adds. This was born of necessity rather than choice, retail director Rowena Hofbauer explains. "When we started up Lush we were broke. Labels were produced on our computer and, because of the paper we used, many disintegrated in the shower. While we have improved this, the principle remains the same - all products are dated and carry the name of the person who made that batch."

The back to basics approach extends to self-promotion, too. Wary of the hard sell, Lush prefers to stress the unassailable facts of its products - mostly natural and always fresh. Even the no animal testing stance doesn't get a look in. "No one really likes the hard sell, do they?" Constantine observes. "Natural and 'fresh', is all we really need to say. Other cosmetics can be up to two years old by the time you buy them. 'Fresh' is a significant differentiator. I wouldn't be surprised if in a few years' time it really catches on."

So how will Lush reconcile this with expansion overseas? The UK shops' 110-strong product range is still produced by hand in Poole. There is talk, however, of setting up a second production centre to supply the

Glasgow branch and future shops in Scotland and northern England. No problem, Constantine says. Lush recipes have already been successfully exported abroad.

"We never actively decided to go international - at least not this soon," he says. Overseas branches came about only when local entrepreneurs approached him to copy the Covent Garden store. They are not franchised, like Body Shop, but the result of one-to-one deals which involve training in the Lush art of fresh cosmetics production. Constantine likens it to a network of local bakeries. The only exception is in Croatia where the owner makes regular trips to England with an empty van and pockets full of cash.

"We're probably the only people who could have done it - after all, we did start making all our products from home," he claims. Which is why Lush remains confident that no matter how large it grows, it will keep the faith - with its founding principles and its cottage industry roots. "We're not going to be as large as the Body Shop, ever. But we do think we'll appear in almost every country, eventually," Constantine says. So long as it continues to be fresh. "And fun."

The Renault Megane Scenic fits the bill for a young family, writes John Simister



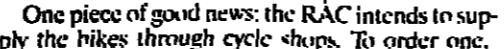
Price (on the road):
£16,595.
Engine: 1,998cc,
four cylinders,
eight valves,
115bhp at 5,400rpm
five-speed gearbox,
front-wheel drive.
Performance:
top speed 115mph,
0-60 in 10.9sec.
Fuel consumption:
25-30mpg

You should try one. Move over, Galaxy Man. New Labour, your chariot awaits.

Mercedes-Benz: The A-class will be launched this summer, a

Japan is behind Europe in the mini-MPV game at the moment, and hasn't truly latched on to the concept of individually foldable and removable seats, but currently offers the Daihatsu Grand Move and the larger Toyota Picnic and Mitsubishi Space Runner. Some would say, though, that Honda invented the MPV breed with the Civic Shuttle of 1984. Pity the designers didn't think harder about the seating plan.

The Porsche FS costs £3,400 and is available through all official Porsche dealers. 0345-911911 for more details.



Matthew Hoffman



<p>Cars for Sale</p> <p>RENAULT CLIO VERSES 1.2, Metallic grey, cash! 16 month Tax / 2yr extended warranty / Pioneer FO Stereo / Sun roof / Tinted windows / Immobiliser June 1996 N Reg. Day: 0171 293 2875 Evening: 0181 550 1285 - £6,800 Bargain!</p>	<p>Mazda</p> <p>best choices - sensible prices used MX range etc.</p> <p>FREEPHONE 0800 323 626</p>	<p>Landrover</p> <p>best choice - sensible prices used Discoverys</p> <p>FREEPHONE 0800 424 414</p>	<p>Tutor Services</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Did you Breakdown last year?</h2>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
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homes & money

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Country living, home comforts

Listed properties and their grounds are being developed for new housing, writes Penny Jackson

Once a week, Fred McFarlane leaves the flower beds of Burton Park in West Sussex for a good nose around the 16th-century tied cottage that was his home for more than 30 years. He likes to keep pace with its transformation from a damp, two-bedroom house into one worth more than half a million pounds. "When I lived there it was divided into three but now it has been completely gutted so I can hardly recognise it. It used to get quite damp because the front had an old red-brick floor. I used to feed my family from the garden, but that has been bulldozed. I notice they have kept one shrub, though."

Mr McFarlane was the head gardener when the girls' school at Burton Park closed down four years ago. Now he alone keeps the gardens tidy as the magnificent Grade 1 mansion house is restored and new homes replace the old science block. At Lodge Green, in a secluded corner of the 150 acres of parkland, "Fred's Cottage", as it is fondly known, is the oldest of the five being restored. The only older building in the park is the 11th-century church. Seven new houses are being added to the hamlet that once served the estate.

Burton Park, with its medieval history, ancient trees, 18th-century ornamental lake and rare wildlife, is certainly unique, but the planning quid pro quo which provides developers with the rare chance to build in the countryside in return for rescuing a house for the national heritage has become something of a trend. Until recently grand houses have struggled to survive as hotels, leisure centres and, of course, schools.

A number of developers are working on Burton

Park. Michael J Wilson, an architect who specialises in restoration, is converting the Palladian mansion into 12 apartments. His work drew the attention of thieves who nearly got away with part of the magnificent Regency staircase; it was eventually tracked down to a lock-up in Portsmouth. Bondlands is providing nine homes adjoining the stable courtyard, while McAlpine is departing from its usual large developments to build 10 cottages around the original walled garden, which will be restored for the use of the owners.

Life on a country estate does not come at a snip and prices start at £175,000 in the stable courtyard, rising to £525,000 for a house at Lodge Green. It is this small group of houses, clustered around the village green and close to the nature reserve, with its rare marsh orchids, that comes closest to village life, albeit of a private, managed kind. Bewley Homes had a reservation for every house before the brochure was printed. They seem to have tapped into the insatiable demand for country living without the muck and isolation.

Derek Moore was one of the first to put his name down on the spur of the moment. "We used to bring the children for walks here and particularly loved the thought that we could buy a new house with some degree of customisation in a place with a history that goes back so far."

And so far, Lodge Green has avoided becoming an early retirement community or a sterile weekend haunt. There are families moving in. Two of the children will be boosting numbers at the local primary school in Duncton. For Martin Dadsell, whose house is closest to the estate, this is the ultimate justification for the development. "There



Fred McFarlane outside Burton House. His old tied cottage is now a £500,000 home

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW HASSON

are only 45 to 50 children at the school and the village needs regenerating. The village hall is moving into the sports pavilion which is very close to Burton Park, so it could become a gathering place."

Similar schemes have shown that the attractions of life in the countryside, rather than country life, are that they are risk-free in a setting of some gentility. People who have spent their lives in rambling old houses are happy to trade down to something new with character at the end of an impressive driveway.

At Northwick Park in Gloucestershire, Laura

Nudd of Hamptons International says there are only a few people with families. "We have a mix in the mansion house which includes foreign buyers, diplomats and MPs looking for bolt-holes, while the empty-nesters opt for the new build. They like the acres of grounds without the worry of a garden or leaving the house when they go away."

Tim McEvoy, sales and marketing director of Berkeley Homes, Hampshire, tells a similar story. The conversion of Leydene House, East Meon into four wings with a converted stable block alongside is selling mostly to the late-middle aged. But

Berkeley is trying to catch the family market by marketing heavily in Surrey the 20 detached houses being built around the grounds. "The open areas are sufficiently far from the houses for the kids not to annoy anyone," he adds.

At Burton Park, the parkland is protected, which means that tennis courts are the only leisure facilities allowed. Swimming pools are out. Fred McFarlane is watching with interest the restoration of the old lily pond. "The school used that as a learning pool. The senior girls would swim in the lake."

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Estate agents are the bad guys again

Home buying: Unethical behaviour is back, says Nic Cicutti

I had to happen. Amid the euphoria surrounding the latest wave of house-price increases, "knock the estate agent" stories are beginning to surface. Estate agents, who suffered through the lean years of the early to mid-1990s, now have the whip hand again. As on the last occasion, they are earning themselves the enmity of many home buyers and sellers.

The very scale of complaints from both sides led the Office of Fair Trading, which has regulatory powers over estate agents, to issue a warning this week that unless they remember their "obligations to consumers" they may be shut down.

John Bridgeman, director-general at the OFT, explains: "There have been reports some estate agents have been failing in their duties. I would remind them that I have powers to ban them from practicing as an agent if they breach the Estate Agents Act, or to remove their consumer credit licence if they engage in improper, deceitful or oppressive practices."

Mr Bridgeman's comments follow cases where estate agents are said to have accepted a bribe from buyers to "ring-fence" a property and not accept further bids. This can be attractive to an estate agent because the extra commission from a higher-priced sale is less than the potential bribe to be earned by a buyer.

Other practices worrying the OFT include:

□ Failing to declare a personal interest to a seller, such as when an estate agent does not tell the vendor that he wants to buy the property, or that an associate who is

a property developer is interested in buying it;

□ Failing to tell the seller that the agent has an interest in supplying services to the buyer for which he will receive payment, such as a finder's fee or commission paid on a mortgage or insurance the agent is arranging;

□ Inflating the price of properties by claiming to buyers that fictitiously high prices have been bid.

This last concern reflects claims by many potential purchasers, including one who contacted *The Independent*.

The buyer, who declines to be named, says: "I was told the house, a three-bedroomed semi, had come on to the market that morning. My girlfriend and I went to see it that evening. We got the very definite impression from the vendor that we were the only people who had viewed it so far. I called the estate agent the next morning and offered the asking price, subject to a surveyor's report."

"He told me there were others already prepared to pay more and that we should consider raising our offer by at least £5,000. I told him to get stuffed. He rang me back two hours later saying we could have it at the original price. We have since exchanged contracts."

Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, of the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA), accepts that in the current overheated market, there may be some unethical behaviour: "We welcome the decision of the OFT to clarify the legal obligations of estate agents towards their clients. It reflects our members' commitment to provide high levels of service and to act properly at all times."

"What makes me angry is that a tiny minority of people in this industry are ruining the reputation of the vast majority who do a good job for vendors, on whose behalf they act."

Mr Dunsmore-Hardy adds that the NAEA, together with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers (ISVA), have long argued for estate agents to become professionally qualified in all the legal aspects of agency, together with the skills needed to assess a property and sell it. "It seems inconceivable but it is possible for someone to set himself up as an estate agent without any qualifications at all," he adds.

The OFT publishes a free guide for buyers and sellers, which explains in detail the law regarding estate agents and the steps to take when deciding with whom you want to sell or buy a property.

If you are unhappy about the activities of an estate agent, it is possible to complain to their professional body or the Ombudsman Scheme for Corporate Estate Agents, although not all agents are members. The OFT will also investigate where it appears an estate agent has broken the law.

NAEA: 01926 4963000; ISVA: 0171-235 2282; RICS: 0171-222 7000; Ombudsman Scheme: 01722 333306. For copies of the OFT's free guide "Using an Estate Agent" write to PO Box 172, East Moseley, KT8 0XW, or call 0181-957 5058.



In demand: Pretty ladies and men in red coats. Three of the miniatures on sale at Christie's last month

Small-scale buying

Collect to invest: Portrait miniatures are enjoying a revival, writes John Windsor, but only sweet faces fetch good prices

The good, the bad and the ugly: loved and hated a century or two ago, now abandoned by their descendants, they gaze sadly from their tiny frames. Some are but faded ghosts. Some manage a wan smile.

The market for portrait miniatures, at rock bottom since a buoyant peak 10 years ago, shows signs of perking up. Bonhams sales in February and March each sold 97 per cent by lot. At Christie's South Kensington last month, a 1787 portrait of a young lady on ivory - with a crack down it - was fought over by several collectors before selling for £6,325, more than 12 times its pre-sale estimate of £400-£600.

Damaged goods are the last to sell during a slump but they are selling now, and auctioneers are puzzled. About 80 per cent of buyers are private collectors. They are outbidding dealers in a market that is understocked and probably undervalued. The showing of the Queen's miniatures, from next month, will help to stoke up interest.

Take a look at that unnamed young lady on ivory. Has she not a fragile beauty, in her loose white dress decked with spring flowers and with her hair backcombed in a way that would turn heads at a modern disco? A secret raver, perhaps? The artist, Diana Hill, is not a big name. It was the sitter that bidders fell in love with.

It is looks that rule this market. Never mind the big-name artists - the prolific Richard Cosway (1740-1821) and George Engleheart (1752-1829); their ugly old men and sour-looking women can still be knocked down for a derisory £400-£600 or so at auction.

Collectors have long abandoned any pretence of political correctness: listen to the sexist and racist language at a pre-sale view. Those miniature portraits, perhaps the only surviving record of what a Georgian or a Victorian looked like, should have immense sentimental appeal, but they are judged like horse-

flesh - which, indeed, some of them resemble.

"It's like real life", says Christie's miniatures specialist Dr Bodo Hofstetter: "You don't buy a work of art, you buy a person. I know it sounds weird, but it's not like buying flower pictures or landscapes. Who wants to buy a grumpy or unfriendly-looking character with whom they will have to live for the next 20 or 30 years?"

"But look at this little girl, Mademoiselle de Courtenay, with her sad dark eyes staring straight at you - probably painted for her father to take to the front. She's not better painted than most and not even signed. But she's looking straight into your heart - and your wallet. They went crazy for her."

Attributed to Luc Sicardi (1746-1825), the portrait was estimated at £2,000-£3,000 in April's sale, in line with the artist's reputation, but fetched five times more: £12,650.

On the same catalogue page: an ageing man in a blue coat by Jean-Baptiste-Jacques Augustin (1759-1832), esteemed chief miniature painter to Louis XVIII. It's among the best of his works, fully signed and dated - but it made only £5,900. Mr Hofstetter says: "At least he has a smile and a colourful cravat - and he's looking straight at you."

That's another criterion. Averted gaze is a minus point. It is like the conning by modern paparazzi to get more saleable direct-gaze shots. "Look at me, Di", they shout.

One well-known collector I spoke to - anonymous, for fear of burglary - lamented: "I fell in love with an old man, beautifully painted by Sir William Ross [1794-1860]. I paid £400 for him. That was six years ago. I'd be lucky to get £600 now. Old women are even harder to get rid of. It's pretty ladies and men in red coats that people want."

The miniaturist James Scouler (1741-1812), she said, seems to have painted only ugly women. "I've come across

only two pretty ones of his." Scouler's prices are a good example of how the market has fallen in ten years. An unnamed cavalry officer in red by Scouler sold for £977 at Christie's South Kensington last month. Back in 1988 the same miniature fetched £1,540.

Now's the time to get your eye in. Why did the young lady with gold sash under her corsage - French School, circa 1815 - estimated at £200-£300 at Christie's South Kensington last month, sell for £920, over three times the estimate? Because of her prominent bust, of course.

And why did Mrs Elliott, by the renowned Cosway, in the same sale, sell for only £287 (est £250-£350). Well, just look at her. She's thin as a rake. And, probably mean, too. So it is puzzling why a purse-lipped malevolent-looking portrait of Francis Owen, by the second-rank Richard Cosse (1742-1810), should have been given pride of place on the cover of Christie's April sale.

In the event, the cover picture did him more good than he did for the cover: he sold for a double-estimate £16,100. And, oddly enough, his pride of place was a backhanded result of the same old beauty contest. Since withdrawing from Geneva, Christie's alternates European and English miniatures as its cover picture. The only English alternative to Cosse's portrait would have been one by Samuel Cooper (1609-1672) of Lady Marsham. She was probably delightfully good-natured. But what a hooter.

The Queen's miniatures go on show at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, 23 July - 5 October. Forthcoming auctions: major beauty contest at Phillips, 8 July (11am) including portrait of the Dashwood children by William Wood (1769-1810), est £2,000-£3,000. Christie's 14 October (2.30pm). Sotheby's provisionally 6 November.

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are indebted to John Cuthbert, an academic and investment researcher, for some further thoughts on unit trusts, about which I wrote last week.

He has recently completed the third in a series of annual analyses of how the various unit trust management groups have performed in the previous three years. His findings raise interesting points about the way the industry is changing, the way it manages funds these days and also about what it takes to produce consistent above average performance, the Holy Grail that everyone in the business – saver and provider alike – is looking for.

Two things primarily distinguish Mr Cuthbert's analysis from most surveys of fund manager performance. One is that he is mainly interested in the overall performance of each management group's funds, rather than in which individual fund has done best over any given time frame.

Second, he uses some advanced statistical tools to try to distinguish what lies behind the success of those groups which achieve the best results. The questions he is interested in are: firstly, how much of any outperformance is due to skill, as opposed to



Jonathan Davis

A small band of unit trust providers consistently outstrips the markets. But attempts to improve the industry could mean fewer star performers

luck? and secondly, how important is the way that the fund management group organises itself in securing good or bad performance?

The two key measures he uses to assess performance records are the consistency with which funds under or outperform their relevant market index over a three-year period; and the extent to which their performance deviates from the norm. The second measure he calls tracking error, and it gives an indication of how actively each fund manager is trying to beat the market.

(If you thought they all were, think again. Although there are only a handful of explicit index-tracking funds in the UK there are also a large number of what are known as closet

indexers. These funds' managers in practice stick fairly closely to mimicking the market averages. They are hoping to beat it by a small margin, but don't want to risk underperforming it by a large margin, which could put their careers in jeopardy.)

Mr Cuthbert's first finding should come as no surprise, since it merely confirms what has been shown many times before. This is that the majority of managers of UK equity unit trusts add no value at all, in the sense that they consistently failed to outperform the FT All Share Index across the range of their funds in the years 1994 to 1996. In fact, 58 of the 91 main fund management groups subtracted value in this sense.

However, his second finding is that

there is a small and elite group of investment management groups which have consistently added value. There are 11 firms which have outperformed the market with at least two thirds of their funds in all three of Mr Cuthbert's annual surveys. Twenty did so in the 1994-96 period alone.

Who are these paragons? Well, stripping out a couple which have been affected by takeover or other corporate changes, and ignoring firms that only sell to institutions, the list includes the following: Britannia, Jupiter, Lazards, Perpetual, Schroders, ABN Pembroke, BWD, Crédit Suisse, Prolific and NPI.

It is an interesting list, for it not only includes some of the best-known names in the retail market but also some which I hazard most people have never even heard of. (Pembroke Carrington, for example, recently bought by the Dutch bank, ABN Amro, is a small firm with an excellent long-term record but, though popular with aficionados, is largely unknown to the general public.) In addition, there are some big names missing from the list too, such as Fidelity and M&G, both of which have had well-publicised recent difficulties. Mr Cuthbert acknowledges that his methodology tends to penalise firms such as M&G which specialise in

buying high yielding stocks rather than growth shares.

Nevertheless, nobody doubts there are a handful of firms which are simply better than others. One thing many of the best firms have in common is a distinctive investment style which they have stuck to over a long period of time. Quite often, also, the same fund managers (eg Bill Mott of Crédit Suisse, Neil Woodford at Perpetual, John Carrington and Nigel Thomas at ABN Pembroke) have stayed with their funds over a period of several years.

A secondary point that Mr Cuthbert does make strongly – and which my own observations also support – is that historic performance figures may be particularly misleading at the moment. This is not just for the well-known reason that beating the averages is hard, and that those funds which perform well in one year tend to do less well in subsequent years. It is also because behind the scenes there is – and not before time – something of a revolution going on in the way that many unit trust groups are organising their investment activities.

To put it bluntly, too many unit trust groups have been poorly run over the years: investment trusts have always tended to have the better quality fund

managers. But this is at last starting to change. Don't be surprised to find a number of groups which have historically tended to do badly now start to produce rather more consistent performances in future, thanks to much improved/more professional investment processes.

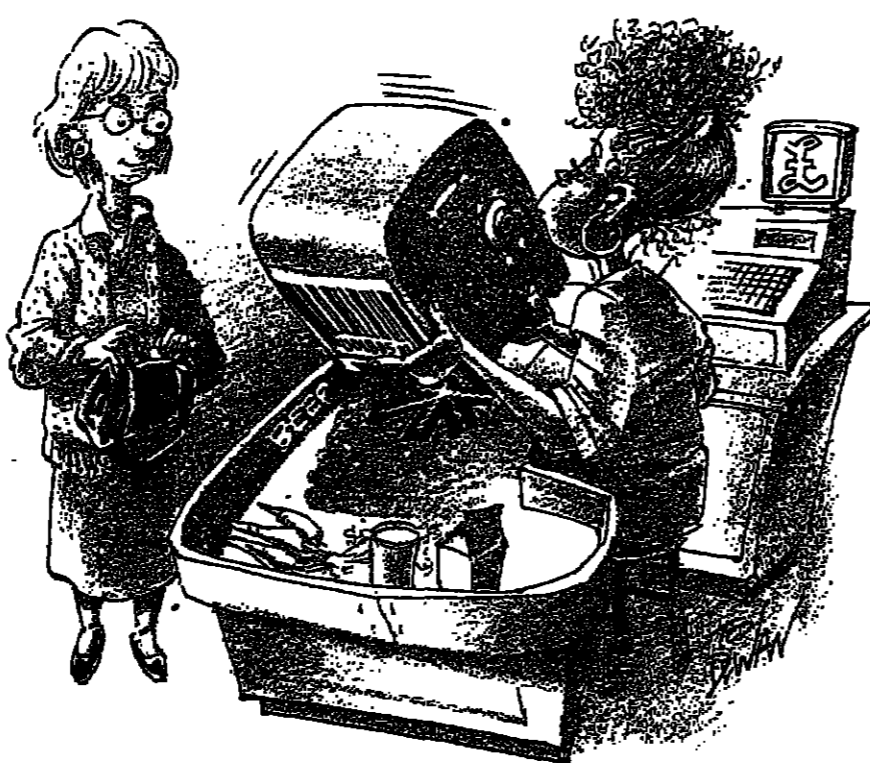
Mr Cuthbert says he already detects big and probably lasting improvements in places such as Hill Samuel (now part of Lloyds TSB), Invesco, Kleinwort Benson, Save & Prosper and Eagle Star/Allied Dunbar (whose funds are to be relaunched under the Threadneedle Asset Management label).

But nor should you expect to discover many more stellar performers. The process of organising unit trust groups more efficiently will if anything, Mr Cuthbert predicts, reduce the number of fund managers who take – or are allowed to take – really big bets in the market. We can look forward to generally higher standards, in other words, but fewer places where risk-taking fund managers of the kind who have taken Jupiter and Perpetual to the top of the tables in recent years are given their heads.

Unit Trust Management Performance Studies, available from John Cuthbert, 36 Stothard Road, Sheffield S10 1RE.

Off the shelf

Rachel Fixsen wonders if familiar high street stores offer better financial deals



Are you ready to entrust a company with your life savings just because it happens to be a dab hand at trimming fresh vegetables? If you shop at Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Virgin or Sainsbury's, you might.

These household names have been making inroads into the financial services market. Paradoxically, clients are often drawn to them precisely because their names are not associated with the much-maligned money industry.

"Banks have lost the trust of the customer, and the Marks & Spencer name is synonymous with trust," says Chris Larkin, M&S Financial Services spokesman. He cites incidents where banks have locked clients into accounts, or stopped them from switching from one type to another.

Financial institutions let customers down in the 1980s by flying into the mortgage market without thinking of the consequences, and small businesses have often been dealt fatal blows when loans were suddenly called in, he adds.

M&S started offering financial services in 1985 when it launched its chargecard. Since then it has gone on to offer personal loans, unit trust investment, life and pension plans. M&S now boasts 10 per cent of the non-bank personal loan market.

The Virgin group, which made its name in the music business and went on to market condoms and launch a commercial airline, now offers a range of financial products through its Virgin Direct telephone-based service.

Supermarket giant J Sainsbury launched Sainsbury's

Bank in February, offering two types of savings account and Visa credit cards. It is about to start mortgages and personal loans. The Instant Access Savings account took the savings market by storm, offering 5.75 per cent interest annually on balances over £1.

There's no doubt these names have succeeded in attracting clients but do their deals justify their popularity?

"It's purely name awareness," says Amanda Davidson of London-based independent financial advisers Holden Meehan. "If you have never heard of someone, you're not willing to commit your hard-earned savings to that company."

But just because a retailer is good at selling vegetables, does that mean they're good at pensions? "The answer is no. Expertise in one area is not a guarantee of expertise in another," says Ms Davidson.

Many of the products from this new breed of bankers are very long-term commitments, and their short investment track records could be a worry for some would-be customers. "I personally would like to

see a longer track record before I recommended them. I'd like to be sure they're committed," Miss Davidson says.

Countering this argument, Virgin, for example, points out that because its main fund is a "tracker", which simply aims to mirror the performance of the FTSE All Share index, it doesn't have to have been around for very long.

Mr Larkin says of course M&S financial services can't invent a track record. "But we've been in the business of servicing customers for more than a hundred years."

And where M&S does have an track record, it is quite good. Its UK 100 Companies Fund ranks second for performance in the past 12 months out of 154 funds in its sector, according to financial information provider Moneyfacts.

But while a company may have a familiar name and jargon-free brochures, its products might not be the cheapest around. It may be worth braving the jargon, or better still, getting an independent financial adviser in order to find a lower-cost product.

The Virgin pension, which is based on unit trust investments, is very flexible – something which cannot be said for the majority of pensions. But Rothschild Asset Management and Gartmore also offer this type of pension, and Rothschild's can work out cheaper.

Unquestionably, these outsiders have shaken the financial industry out of its complacency. Big players such as Scottish Widows, Guardian Royal Exchange, Eagle Star and Legal & General now offer products which are sometimes cheaper than the newcomers. It remains to be seen, however, whether any of them retaliate by opening a new breed of chain store.

Sainsbury's Bank: 0500 405060; Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service: 0345 959595; Marks & Spencer Financial Services: 0800 3634 00/01244 681 681; Gartmore Fund Managers: 0800 289336; Eagle Star Direct: 0800 776666; Rothschild Asset Management: 0800 124314; Legal & General Direct: 0500 909090; Guardian Direct: 0800 282820; Scottish Widows: 0131 655 6000

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Small flat, big bills

NAMES: Danny McEvoy and Pauline Evans
AGE: Both 34
OCCUPATIONS: Teacher and care worker

THE PROBLEM: Danny bought a leasehold studio flat in Brighton for £35,000 in June 1991, with a 100 per cent mortgage from Royal Bank of Scotland. Shortly after moving in, he discovered that the agents of the converted building, which covers 24 leaseholders in all, would be billing him for service charges of £95 every six months, which he accepted as reasonably fair.

A year later, the freehold to the building was bought by Anthony Scrivens, who operates through a web of companies, including Adelaide Homes (Sussex) and Adelaide Property Management.

Within months, service charges began to climb. By 1994, they reached £275 each half-year. The bill levied that year by Mr Scrivens on members of the entire building included £60 a month for cleaning, rent for the television aerial of £641 a year and £300 a month management fees. Mr Scrivens, by happy coincidence, not only owns but manages the building.

If there were any significant repairs to the building, such as almost £5,000 for roof repairs in 1994, Mr Scrivens levied an additional 10 per cent works management fee. Last year, the leaseholders were landed with a £27,000 paint job to the outside of the property, a job which an independent surveyor hired by the leaseholders describes as poor.

At this point, Danny felt enough was enough. He and Pauline decided to organise the other tenants. But when they tried to get a Rent Assessment Panel (RAP), a statutory body, to recognise them as a residents' association Mr Scrivens blocked recognition by arguing the ownership of the building is separated into two parts. Then, the fact that Pauline is not formally a resident proved a further legal stumbling block.

The leaseholders want Mr Scrivens to sell the freehold to them at a fair rate, but cannot force him to because of legal problems. He offered it to them for £48,000, much more than they felt is fair. He then reduced it to £29,000.

Meanwhile, workmen have fitted a felt roof, similar to that used on garden sheds, because the block's original roof blew off last year.

Danny and Pauline want to know what to do.

Makeover: A teacher is faced with soaring service charges



Leasehold hassles: Danny McEvoy

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW HASSON

THE ADVISER: Tim Curran, a chartered surveyor and director of Leasehold Enfranchisement Ltd, a firm which advises leaseholders (London area only) on extending leases and buying their own freeholds. Address: 33 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DO (0171-821 8820)

THE ADVICE: "There appears to have been a history of service charge problems with this block of flats and it does seem to me, without knowing every detail, that some of the charges are excessive."

As for the problems with regard to the Rent Assessment Panel and getting themselves appointed as a residents' association, I am sure the RAP's interpretation of the law, disappointing as it may seem, is probably correct. I imagine what is happening is that the freeholder is employing a professional, such as a solicitor, and they are following the letter of the law quite closely.

There are a number of recourses which these leaseholders could take

under law. One option is to apply to the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal for a determination as to whether service charges are reasonable and for an appointment of a manager, either themselves or a third party, to take over the running.

The freehold is still owned by the landlord but this would neutralise the aggravation factor.

Tenants have always had the right to seek a new manager for the freehold property, but the right has been extended quite radically and it is a much easier procedure to obtain now. The cost of an application to an LVT has not yet been set but is unlikely to be above £500.

The relevant legislation allowing this, under the Housing Act 1996, has been passed by Parliament but it has not yet come into effect. The signs are that it will come into force in July.

Leasehold Valuation Tribunals (LVTs) are an arbitration body set up by government to adjudicate on disputes between landlords and

tenants. They have a range of powers which include setting prices for lease extensions and determining on the appointment of new managers for the property.

It is important to note, however, that the freeholder does have the power to object to this process and the LVT must take its point of view into account. A potential problem is that once the order is made the freeholder can still ask for that order to be changed or varied after a certain period of time.

Although the LVT has the power to appoint another manager, it may be easier for the leaseholders to exercise another legal right, that of purchasing the freehold - known as collective enfranchisement. At least that settles the problem once and for all.

This is also subject to negotiation over the exact price between both parties. If they fail to agree, a final judgment is made by the LVT. But here, the leaseholders must be prepared to pay for the freeholder's reasonable costs, which may include surveyors' reports and lawyers, in any appearance before the LVT.

However, there are also legal restrictions on the right to buy a freehold which unfortunately appear to affect this property. This is because one leaseholder, a business operating on the ground floor, takes up more than 10 per cent of the floor space. Therefore, the leaseholder must negotiate a reasonable price. My view is that in this case, such a move would be cost-effective in the long run and, given the freeholder appears willing to sell, negotiations should be initiated.

As for the likely price, there is already guidance from previous LVT decisions, although they are not legally binding in this case.

THE VERDICT: "The problem is that we don't trust Mr Scrivens. He could take us down the path of negotiation, incurring huge solicitor's charges and then pull out."

As far as the LVT is concerned, July is too late by far. Leaseholders should have the right to apply for a decision now. We would also like to see the right to manage, as spelt out in the Government's paper, 'An End to Feudalism', applied immediately.

Meanwhile, we will carry on paying just the ground rent, wait until the LVT acquires its new powers and then lodge an application for a change in management." *Tim Curran and Danny McEvoy were talking to Nic Cicutti.*



Nic Cicutti

A nice little earner for everyone except the investor

If there is a common thread to the many plaintive remarks made to personal finance journalists by the insurance industry, it is that we tend to underestimate the sterling work they carry out on behalf of their policyholders.

Whenever I begin to waver and find myself agreeing with this view, a reader's letter brings me back to earth. One this week comes from Dr Fergal O'Driscoll, a GP based in Lowestoft.

Dr O'Driscoll joined his partnership in 1987 and spoke to a financial adviser. The adviser suggested a nifty little scheme by a company called Scottish Equitable. This involved borrowing £40,000 from Scottish Equitable itself, with equity in the surgery used as collateral for the loan.

The insurer would then invest the money it was advancing Dr O'Driscoll for 10 years and pay him the proceeds at the end of that period. Meanwhile, the good doctor would carry on paying interest on the loan to Scottish Equitable.

In theory, the investment gains would pay off the loan plus the interest and leave a tidy additional sum for Dr O'Driscoll. Scottish Equitable's literature at the time suggested in bold letters that he might earn net returns of up to 33 per cent.

It hasn't quite worked out that way. Last month, Dr O'Driscoll received a letter from Scottish Equitable in which it informed him that the returns on his £40,000 investment would be £61,000 at maturity next year, which is actually £2,000 less than the interest paid on the loan over this period.

Other members of the surgery who took the same advice and have invested up to £120,000 more, face similar losses.

What we have, in effect, is a situation where the "adviser" made one heck of a lot of commission on the total investment by all the doctors - at least £7,500.

Scottish Equitable has made a fat profit too out of Dr O'Driscoll's money and that of his partners. The only people to have suffered are the investors themselves.

Scottish Equitable, according to a special report about which I wrote last week, is currently refusing to provide statistical information on its products to *Money Marketing*, a specialist financial paper. Its refusal supposedly stems from the fact that it no longer markets with-profits endowments of the type sold to Dr O'Driscoll and his partners.

With returns of barely 50 per cent over 10 years on the money invested, one might suppose that the real reason is that Scottish Equitable feels a sense of shame at its poor performance.

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One immediate reaction is: "leave the country". Although a bit flip, it underlies a serious point. Going non-resident, or varying your residence status in some way, can significantly affect your tax bill.

There are probably three variants to look at: leaving the country altogether, still working here but only for part of the time; and working here, but not as a full citizen. As in all the best game shows, we'll take them in reverse order.

There are a lot of people working in this country who do not pay tax on all their income. Why not? Because they are non-domiciled. Here we need to introduce a couple of definitions: residence is physical being - if you're in the UK for over half the tax year, you're "resident". Be here generally, and you are "ordinarily resident".

"Domicile" is your real home. It's a funny concept in many ways – it isn't necessarily the country of your birth, though that is usually the start point. You can change during life; in the end, where you intend to be buried is an oft-quoted guide to your domicile. For example, many will remember Sir Charles Clore, the founder of Sears. Towards the end of his life, he left the UK and started to live in Monaco – but he had not completely shed his UK connections. Accordingly he was still UK domiciled when he died – and his estate fell into inheritance tax.

The income tax advantage of domicile is that if you are resident here but not UK domiciled, then you pay tax on non-UK income and gains basically only to the extent that you remit them to the UK. This helps a lot of expatriates who are working in the UK – and contributes to the UK being an attractive place for foreign investment. It requires care to manage your affairs to best effect –

If you are UK domiciled, you may decide that you can do your work other than by daily attendance at the office. The thought of avoiding the daily battle with train/tube/car is attractive. So how about basing yourself in, say, Jersey, and working from there? Electronic links now make it far easier to contemplate doing many tasks remote from the office. Being resident in Jersey means being taxed there – and you would still be able to come over to the UK from time to time, without becoming resident here.

The Inland Revenue
would regard you as resident
here if you were here for
183+ days; or if you made
"regular and substantial"
visits to the UK. Come here
for 91+ days a year and you
would definitely be in;
shorter periods might still
lead to your being caught.

Having a house here and visiting it during the year does not of itself make you resident, as it once did; but there are 19th-century cases to suggest you can be resident without even setting foot in the UK in the year.

If you are contemplating this route, the basic first step is to be resident somewhere other than the UK – and control your visits here. (As a day counts for residence purposes by being here at midnight, you can achieve a lot with a fast plane – but it's not an area to try to abuse.)

So what about leaving the assets in the trust? This thought also occurs to people who are facing a large capital gains bill. To establish non-residence you need to have a full-time job abroad for at least a full tax year, or to be out for at least three years. So it's not just a question of a night in Calais to offload your shares CGT-free. Incidentally, this whole area is one that the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, is looking at – not necessarily to change on 2 July, but if you are thinking of taking advantage of the rules in this area, do bear in mind that changes may well happen before too long.

The writer is a tax partner at Price Waterhouse

Best savings rates

		period	adv %		
FIXED RATES					
Country B5	0000 126125	7.10 to 30/6/82	85	\$250	—
VARIABLE RATES					
Northern Rock BS	0000 591500	5.35 to 1/7/80	95	—	—
Northern Rock BS	0000 591500	4.59 to 1/7/80	90	\$395	—
Northern Rock BS	0000 591500	6.99 to 1/7/82	90	\$385	—
FIRST TIME BUYERS FIXED RATES					
Northern Rock BS	0000 591500	4.59 to 1/7/80	90	\$395	—
Northern Rock BS	0000 591500	6.99 to 1/7/82	90	\$385	—
FIRST TIME BUYERS VARIABLE RATES					
Principality BS	01222 344108	4.69 to 1/6/89	90	—	—
UNSECURED					
Telephone	APR %	Max LTV	Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 yrs)	With insurance	Without insurance
National Rate BS	0000 591500	—	—	—	—
Direct Line	0181 680 9066	13.84	£112.07	\$101.53	—
Royal B of Scotland	0000 121125	14.0	£134.95	\$101.46	—
SECURED (SECOND CHARGE)					
Telephone	APR %	Max LTV	Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 yrs)	With insurance	Without insurance
National Rate BS	0000 591500	—	—	—	—
Direct Line	0181 680 9066	13.84	£112.07	\$101.53	—
Royal B of Scotland	0000 121125	14.0	£134.95	\$101.46	—
SECURED (FIRST CHARGE)					
Telephone	APR %	Max LTV	Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 yrs)	With insurance	Without insurance
National Rate BS	0000 591500	—	—	—	—
Direct Line	0181 680 9066	13.84	£112.07	\$101.53	—
Royal B of Scotland	0000 121125	14.0	£134.95	\$101.46	—
SECURED (FIRST CHARGE) - 10% LTV ADV					
Telephone	APR %	Max LTV	Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 yrs)	With insurance	Without insurance
National Rate BS	0000 591500	—	—	—	—
Direct Line	0181 680 9066	13.84	£112.07	\$101.53	—
Royal B of Scotland	0000 121125	14.0	£134.95	\$101.46	—
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National Rate BS	0000 591500	—	—	—	—
Direct Line	0181 680 9066	13.84	£112.07	\$101.53	—
Royal B of Scotland	0000 121125	14.0	£134.95	\$101.46	—

	Telephone number	Account	Maturity or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
David Lane	0301 947 1131	Instant Savings	Instant (P)	£1	4.75	Year
Industrial & Bank	0161 666677	Instant Savings	Instant			
Northumbria BS	0432 690000	Instant Savings	Instant			
Northumbria Building Society	0432 690000	Instant Savings	Instant			
Northumbria Building Society	0432 690000	Instant Savings	Instant			
Stafford Railway BS	01785 232312	Fixed Class Return	Period	£10,000	7.00	Month
First Yorkshire BS	0191 509000	Fixed Plus Bond	30 days (P)	£5,000	6.50	Year
Coventry BS	0243 680000	Fixed Plus Bond	30 days (P)	£5,000	6.50	Year
Coventry Building Society	0243 680000	Fixed Plus Bond	30 days (P)	£5,000	6.50	Year
Coventry Building Society	0243 680000	Fixed Plus Bond	30 days (P)	£5,000	6.50	Year
Schroders	0171 658 3301	Special	Instant	£2,500	5.475	Monthly
Halling BS	01432 355333	Asset Reserve	Instant	£10,000	4.50	Quarter
Central BS	01903 756113	Fixed Plus Bond	30 days (P)	£5,000	6.50	Year
London & Lancashire	01753 300000	Instant Savings	Instant	£10,000	6.00	Year
Peffermore BS	0800 827000	Fixed Rate Bond	1 year	£500	6.75%	Maturity
Orkney & West BS	0800 202211	Year Plus Bond	1/4 year	£1,000	6.85	Maturity
Yorkshire BS	0300 378836	Mutual Benefit Bond	31/12/88	£5,000	7.25%	Maturity
Staffordshire BS	0800 434331	Fixed Rate Bond	1 year	£500	6.75%	Maturity
Sun Banking Corp	01438 746605	Fixed Rate with leader A/c 5 year		£5,575	7.55%	Year
Termite Bank (UK)	0171 203 1650	Pressure with leader A/c		£3,000	7.25	Year
Principality BS	01222 344188	Fixed Rate Bond	5 year	£500	7.15	Year
Bradford & Bingley BS	0800 592588	Fixed Rate Bond	5 year	£500	7.00%	Year
Sun Banking Corporation	01438 746605	Fixed Rate with leader A/c 5 year		£5,575	7.55%	Year
Staffordshire BS	0800 216121	Fixed Rate Bond	5 year	£5,000	7.25	Year
Principality BS	01222 344188	Fixed Rate Bond	5 year	£5,000	7.15	Year
Bradford & Bingley BS	0800 592588	Fixed Rate Bond	5 year	£5,000	7.05	Year
GE Financial Resources	0161 350 5588	Fixed Rate with leader A/c 5 year	1 year	£5,000	5.75%	Year
Coventry Building Society	0432 690000	Instant Savings	Instant	£10,000	6.00%	Year
Peffermore BS	0800 827000	Fixed Rate Bond	1 year	£500	6.75%	Maturity
Peffermore BS	0800 827000	Fixed Rate Bond	1 year	£500	6.75%	Maturity
Peffermore BS	0800 827000	Fixed Rate Bond	1 year	£500	6.75%	Maturity
Co-operative Bank	01461 710627	Saver Direct Worldwide	Instant (P)	£10,000	6.12	Year
Coventry Building Society	0432 690000	Instant Savings	Instant	£10,000	6.30	Year
Northumbria Building Society	0432 690000	Instant Savings	Instant	£10,000	6.30	Year
Northumbria Building Society	0432 690000	Instant Savings	Instant	£10,000	6.30	Year
Northumbria Building Society	0432 690000	Instant Savings	Instant	£10,000	6.30	Year
Investment Accounts			1 month	£20	4.75	Year
Investment Accounts			1 month	£20	5.25	Year
Investment Accounts			1 month	£25.00	5.50	Year
Income Bonds			3 months	£2,000	6.00	Month
Income Bonds			3 months	£2,000	6.25	Month
Income Bonds			3 months	£2,000	6.50	Month
First Optima Bonds			12 months	£1,000	6.25%	Year
Paragon's Global Income Bond		Series 3	5 year	£500	7.00%	Month
Children's Bond		Issue H	5 year	£25	6.75%	Maturity

P: paid only F: fixed rate
N: net rate A: All withdrawals subject to 30 day loss of interest
All rates are shown gross and may be subject to change without notice.
Source: MONEYfacts 01622 500677, 5 June 1987

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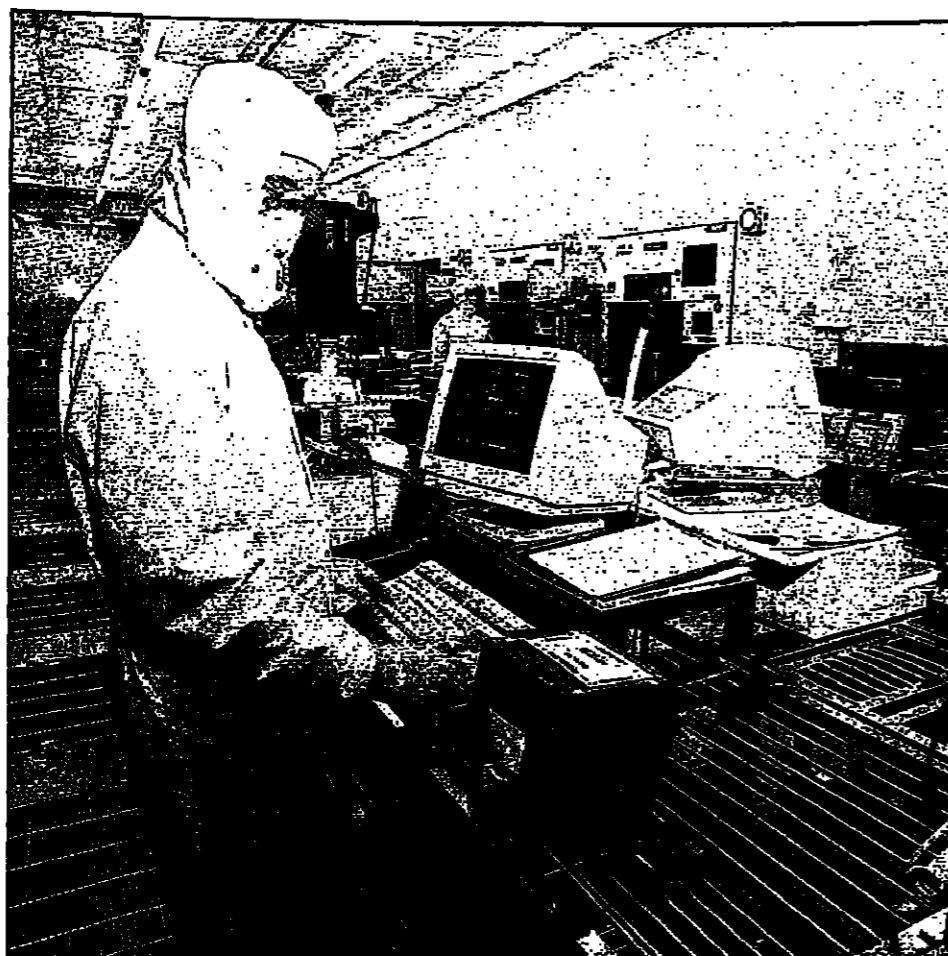
(This question is asked for purposes of research only and will not affect the kind of information you will receive from the AITC)

(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____ Initials _____ Surname _____
 MARK CUT: NO PLEASE
 Address _____

Postende

Please note that the historical and income loss shapes are full and may not reflect the amount of past performance and are not necessarily a guide to the future. This information is not intended to be used as a basis for investment decisions.

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Pension peace of mind: Scheme members must be told about investment strategies

The risks they take with our money

Risk is one of the most critical issues to be confronted in relation to both investment and pension planning. It is a worrying conundrum for investors and trustees alike. So, how is a trustee to cope with balancing risk and the need to safeguard pension assets for members? And how can pension scheme members know what trustees are doing on their behalf?

Statistics only tell one side of the story. One hundred pounds invested in equities in December 1918 with all income reinvested was worth £710,556 in December 1996, according to BZW, the investment house. The equivalent figures for gilts and cash were £8,917 and £6,101 respectively. Yet equities are considered far more risky investments, and the penalties for making a mistake are huge.

Investment managers are, anyway, like race horses – they need guidelines. Otherwise, they may be tempted to go for more speculative investments than trustees would like. Alternatively, if they are wrongly informed about the pension scheme, they may be overly conservative.

To answer these dilemmas, the new Pensions Act requires trustees to draw up and maintain a written statement of

Pensions: Stephanie Hawthorne reports on trustees' new duties

investment principles (SIP). It should contain details on how trustees choose investments, on the types of investment held and the balance between them.

It should provide guidelines on the preferred approach to risk, likely return and the realisation of investments, and the need for diversification, and how the fund will comply with the minimum funding requirement (MFR).

The SIP should also be available for members to see on request and be quoted in the annual report. Certainly, it should be more accessible than the "chairman's bottom drawer". Failure to have an SIP in place may now result in trustees being disqualified by the pensions watchdog, Opra, and fines may be imposed.

Nick Fitzpatrick, a partner at actuaries Bacon & Woodrow, says: "Cumbersome and bureaucratic they [SIPs] may be, but even in the best run funds, trustees have been forced to look carefully at some neglected corners of their portfolios and management arrangements."

Philip Christison of Towers Perrin

welcomes the new proposals: "Much pension fund investment to date has been subject to uncertain objectives and follow-my-leader style decisions; making investment decisions for the wrong or poorly defined reasons is obviously a bad idea."

Trustees also have to state their policy on complying with the minimum funding requirement (MFR) introduced by the Pensions Act to give members greater security. MFR aims to ensure that, whatever happens to the employer, salary-related schemes have enough money in them to meet the pension rights of the members. If the pension scheme is wound up, there should be enough assets for pension payments to continue and to provide all younger members with a cash value of their pension rights.

If the money in the scheme is less than this minimum level, the employer will need to put in more money. The time limit for restoring schemes' fund levels to at least 90 per cent and 100 per cent of the MFR is one year and five years respectively.

The MFR itself is a compromise. Keith Tennent, of actuaries Buck Consultants, says: "Purists may object to such a standard on the grounds it does not absolutely guarantee the required benefits on a winding up. But it is a standard, where none has existed before."

One problem is that some funds may switch from more volatile, but better performing equities to poorer, but more predictable, investments. A typical pension fund's current holding of gilts under the new proposals might increase from 10 to 13 per cent of assets.

So far, the stock market has hardly quivered at the news. But mature funds, that is those with many pensioners or employees nearing retirement or with many people being made redundant, will have to invest heavily in gilts or other matching assets. These proposals could require employers to invest an extra £300m to £400m a year in UK pension funds until the MFR is fully in place between 2002 and 2007.

Even so, for most well-run pension schemes MFR will be a question of nuance and good practice. But pensioners will eventually have more protection at a reasonable price.

Stephanie Hawthorne is the editor of 'Pensions World'

Is there a way to beat the Budget?



Brian Tora

Second guessing the Chancellor's plans is tricky, but it's worth a try

At long last we know the date of the Budget. And we have yet another break in tradition. This will be the first Budget to be held on a Wednesday. We expected it next week.

The delay could be significant. Chancellor Brown has said that he wished to flick through the country's finances carefully before deciding what action to take. Checking the books took longer than he expected, so it looks as though we can expect some real measures in July.

Fortunately, there is plenty of time to plan. Wily investors should be taking avoiding action this month. Here are a few tips for beating the Budget.

Personal equity plans: it is hard to see the Chancellor dispensing with this valuable savings vehicle, but you never know.

Most financial planners believe that the worst he could do is to cap the total amount that can be invested, or restrict the income tax breakthrough with advanced corporation tax.

Either way, there seems to be nothing to be lost by taking your full allowance for PEPs out now, rather than waiting, as many do, until the end of the tax year.

A general and single PEP for a husband and a wife can tuck £18,000 out of the taxman's reach, no bad move when you consider that this Government is likely to be less sympathetic towards investors than the last one was.

Capital gains tax: some change here has already been signalled, but it is worth bearing in mind that it is already an onerous tax. However, the Chancellor seems to wish to make a distinction between long-term investors and short-term speculators: we may see the reintroduction of short-term capital gains tax.

Of course, that will mean little if it remains tied to income, given that the Chancellor has pledged not to raise the top rate of tax.

So it may be that a more punitive level of taxation will be introduced to remove some of the profit from those fortunate enough to make a large gain relatively swiftly.

Those with long memories will recall that the original, short-term capital gains tax was levied at the confiscatory income tax rates that applied back in the Sixties.

This introduced a massive distortion into the timing of transactions, but politicians do not usually have such long memories.

Of course, it may be pointless to incur tax charge now, simply to avoid the

risk of higher taxes being imposed later, but if you do have a large short-term gain, it may be as well to mop up this year's exemption before the end of the month.

Bonuses: thanks to, among others, the directors of the company operating the National Lottery, I would not be surprised to see some move made against those who are rewarded with high bonus pay-outs as part of their remuneration package.

For the City such a move is probably too late – most bonuses are paid between January and March to reflect the profits made in the previous calendar year – but if you are likely to benefit from an employer's munificence, it may be as well to encourage him to put the payment into this month's pay packet. Again, nothing may happen, but you never can tell.

Inheritance tax: this was a tax that John Major, when he was prime minister, said he would like to see abolished. Not much chance here, I am afraid.

However, it has been described as a voluntary tax by some financial planners, so the Chancellor may seek to close any potential loopholes.

Frankly, unless you are seriously wealthy and with money to burn, there is probably not a lot that can be done, except possibly using annual exemption and gift allowances. And if you possess the kind of wealth that is likely to make the Chancellor's eyes light up with glee, you have probably tucked it away in foreign trusts already.

Now that you are all planned and Gordon Brown-proof, you can start worrying about where the market goes from here. Opinion is divided.

Some consider that new highs both on Wall Street and in London will be posted as the year progresses. Others believe that Nemesis waits just around the corner.

America holds the key, but we may just have a nudge from next month's Budget as well. Talk is rife of a windfall bonanza for builders, travel agents and the like, courtesy of the newly-floated building societies.

The Chancellor may well step in to dampen consumers' enthusiasm next month.

Dampen it too much, and the market may take it amiss, regardless of what is happening in Bill Clinton land.

The writer is chairman of the Greg Middleton Investment Strategy Committee, and can be contacted on 0171-655 4000.

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TO FIND OUT WHAT'S ON TV, WHERE TO GO AND WHEN, READ TODAY'S **eye**Serena Mackesy
In my week

I had a Purple Haze and a Foundation Vodka Punch and my notes say something like "vod gin blue curac dsh pnk snaps lem lim eggwht lmd grenad"

Every hack wonders sometimes if it's all worth it. Every now and again, you get an assignment so tough you have to spend the next day in bed to recover. In-depth research can leave you with all the sweating, queasy, head-ache signs of major illness.

I conducted some in-depth research on Wednesday with Ian Wisniewski, the vodka man. Ian and Nicholas Faith have just completed an exhaustive survey of the spirit under the title *Classic Vodka* (Prion Books, £9.99). Aha! I thought. That'll make a feature. Quick interview, run-down on the qualities that differentiate the tittle of kings from the stuff swigged in bus stations. Ian had a better idea. "I'll meet you at the Tsar's Bar," he said. "Then you can have a practical demonstration."

It started beautifully. Six o'clock at the Langham Hilton, white suit with shocking pink accessories. Ian, cool, blonde and immaculate, sat majestically at a table. A nice man pushing a trolley disguised as a dressing table - scent bottles and powder-puff jars full of olives - made a "Tsartini" with a jalapeno in it. It did wonders for the chest hairs. I found my notebook. "So tell me about vodka. Was it difficult researching the book?"

"Oh, no," he replied. A pair of glasses appeared, one filled with stuff called "Seriously", the other brimming with Blavod, which is black. "It's fascinating. Every vodka has a story attached to it." He spent much of last year in the Warsaw distilleries. "It was great fun. Although sometimes it got a bit strange when you found yourself swigging 96-degree proof vodkas just after breakfast. They don't provide spittoons, you know. It would be rude to use one."

An iced bowl of shots of Sibirskaya, Gorilka, Wyborowa and the bar's own Fruits of the

Forest landed in front of us. "Gorilka is the Ukrainian for burning," he said. "They have loads of different flavours from the raw ingredients. Polish is mainly rye, Russian and Scandinavian mostly wheat. The Poles grow a special type of high-starch potato specifically for vodka-making." We sampled some Bison Grass ("You can't cultivate it. The yields are lower than if you harvest it from the wild") and Goldwasser, which contains flakes of 23-carat gold in deference to the medieval belief in the metal's medicinal properties.

Everything was going swimmingly. "This is lovely," I said. "I haven't had this much fun

it out with my finger and chewed it.

A raspberry and a melon Martini later, I was assuring him that vodka was the only drink I'd ever touch. "It's all delicious. Everything. All wonderful." He nodded sagely. A mixologist strolled past with a mechanical spoon on a stick. "Darling, let me play," I begged. Whirled it around a couple of times, then tried it on my companion's ear. "Enough, tickles," he said, and ordered a round of Dirty Martinis.

My elbow slipped off the bar. I would have felt like Audrey Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, except that Audrey's white trousers would never have



had developed mysterious grey flecks. Ian seemed neither shaken nor stirred. "Let's go to The Foundation. You have to try some cocktails, and they have a fountain."

In the basement of Harvey Nick's, where the bottle shelves are indeed backed by a mirrored wall of flowing water, I had a

doing a piece in years. "Perhaps," he said. "We should have Martinis." "You're the expert," I replied. We poured into a cab, which took us to the Metropolitan.

The Met is jolly, red and full of bucket chairs. The bucket chairs are full of bums you have sneaking feelings you should recognise. The exhausted blonde next to us turned out to be Mariella Frostrup. We perched on stools. Mine seemed to have a wobble. Ian tried it. It didn't wobble for him. An army of crop-haired young men in - get this - black Donna Karan uniforms moved and shook, dashing vermouth from vinegar shakers into glasses and throwing it out again. They have three sizes of glass - mini, medium and greedy - and 24 Martinis on their list. We started with a Polish, moved on to a Sake, which had a twist of cucumber peel floating in the bottom. I fished

Purple Haze and a Foundation Vodka Punch, and my notes say something like "vod gin blue curac dsh pnk snaps lem lim eggwht lmd grenad", so obviously the old professional dignity remained intact. Then, suddenly, the bar was closed. "Aargh, they close early," I moaned. "Uum," said Ian. "It's twenty-five to twelve."

Fumbling on my front doorstep, I tripped over a food parcel from Asda. Inside was a bottle of the coolest thing ever: County Cream strawberry cream liqueur, a sort of added-value Bailey's. Coat on the floor, keys in the goldfish bowl, I poured a tumbler: melted Haagen Dazs with booze. So delicious I had to ring Angel-bell to tell him. A sleepy voice answered the phone on the eighth ring. "Darling, did you know that you can only grow Bison Grass in the wild?"

A pause. "You're completely smashed," he said. "Go to bed."

Tomb of the unknown wordsmith

Robert Hanks
the week on radio

Immortality - literary immortality, that is, not the banal, fleshy kind - is a tricky customer, capricious, demanding and vague. The only consolation it offers the writer is the negative one, that he has not achieved it. My advice is, do it for the money and let posterity take care of itself.

On Tuesday, Radios 3 and 4 co-operated in an odd examination of the vagaries of literary immortality, based on the fact that this day, 3 June 1997, was Enoch Soames Day. Enoch Soames was a third-rate poet of the 1890s in a short story by Max Beerbohm, author of such slim volumes as *Fingolds* (the name suggests something of the quality of the poems). Soames explains: strange growths, natural and wild, yet exquisite and many-hued and full of poisons. His work goes unnoticed (as does Soames: he is a perfect non-entity), but he clings to the notion that posterity will reward him.

In the story, he sells his soul to the devil in return for the chance to go forward one century - to last Tuesday afternoon

to visit the British Museum Reading Room and see what posterity has made of him. He expects to find biographies, commentaries, new editions of his work; instead he finds one reference to himself, as a ridiculous character in a labourer's satire by Max Beerbohm.

The occasion of his visit was marked by a dramatisation of the story, broadcast on Radio 4 at the very hour when Soames was supposed to be in the Reading Room; and by an almost live feature. The *Ghost in the Reading Room*, broadcast on Radio 3 in the evening.

On paper, this seemed a disproportionate reaction to a little-known 80-year-old squib. Eric Pringle's dramatisation was no more than efficient - the joke being too firmly based on the page to make the transition very convincingly - and there were some embarrassingly weak ironies and flat moments in David Benedictus and Tom Braun's walk round Beerbohm's London. The feature culminated with the appearance of an actor impersonating Soames in the Reading Room, to a cringe-making display of mock amazement.

So I wouldn't mention it at all, if it weren't that it's the kind of enterprise - self-consciously arty and thoroughly pointless - that public broadcasting exists, in part, to attempt; and if it hadn't brought home, under the jocular manner, the peculiar horror that being forgotten must hold when being remembered is your only reason for living. Just think of all the thousands of mute, inglorious Enoch Soameses there must have been: this was a surprisingly haunting ghost.

Journalists are, of course,

not very interested in literary immortality. Generally speaking, a journalist has to reckon that anything he writes is going to be no more than kindling on the bonfire of the vanities - it might make a bit of a spark one second but the next it will have wafted off into thin air. If they make a deal with the devil, it's for them to be allowed to keep their heads down and be swiftly forgotten. (He doesn't demand a soul in return: just that they keep on with the job, since the multiplication of reading-matter does his work for him.)

Sometimes the pact breaks down and the journalist does get a place in history: Martin Bell being a recent example. His series on television journalism, *The Truth is Our Currency*, has just finished its delayed run (R4, Fri). It's been particularly interesting to hear it in the light of recent events at Tatton: and hearing his stubborn affirmation that journalists can only deal in truth, or they lose the trust of the public, leaves you in no doubt that he was the right man to front an anti-corruption campaign. Tatton's gain is, you feel, the BBC's loss.

Stumped by those commentaries

Jasper Rees
the week on television

Channel 5's commitment to doing things differently found Turastyle Live World Cup Football (CS, Sat) in a rowdy sports bar watching Poland v England. It was one of those joints where you can't see the metal for the alloy, all jutting girders and musclebound ramparts: an architectural representation, if you will, of the iron-clad England midfield: for Ince, Batty and Lee read grille, steel and chrome. If the venue wasn't specifically designed to provide the worst possible acoustic for Brough Scott's clipped equestrian voice, then my name's Karel Wojtyla. And my balcony was wrought at the same ironmonger.

The choice of location had a kind of skewed logic. BSKYB picks up most of its audience for football from the pub, so why not be in the pub before the audience gets there? Of course, on a normal night on Channel 5 you could fit most of its audience in there with the production team, and still have room for a hen party. But this was the channel's first big night since its big first night, and for once they were broadcasting in the certain knowledge that somebody out there was watching. The importance of making an impression was not lost on them. Hence the line-up of

pundits. Where the BBC gives you Alan Hansen, Channel 5 comes up with Jo Guest. Plus a lot of people called Diamond.

In other words, they'd invited the hen party along after all. Before the game, the referee had ordered England to change their strip, on the grounds that it clashed with Poland's. From this end, courtesy of Channel 5's ever reliable transmitter, it looked as if they swapped red for a green and pink design with a juddering wave motif, the internationally recognised colours of the sick parrot. By an extraordinary coincidence, the England rugby team playing Argentina half a planet away, in a match broadcast immediately afterwards, were wearing exactly the same kit. As were

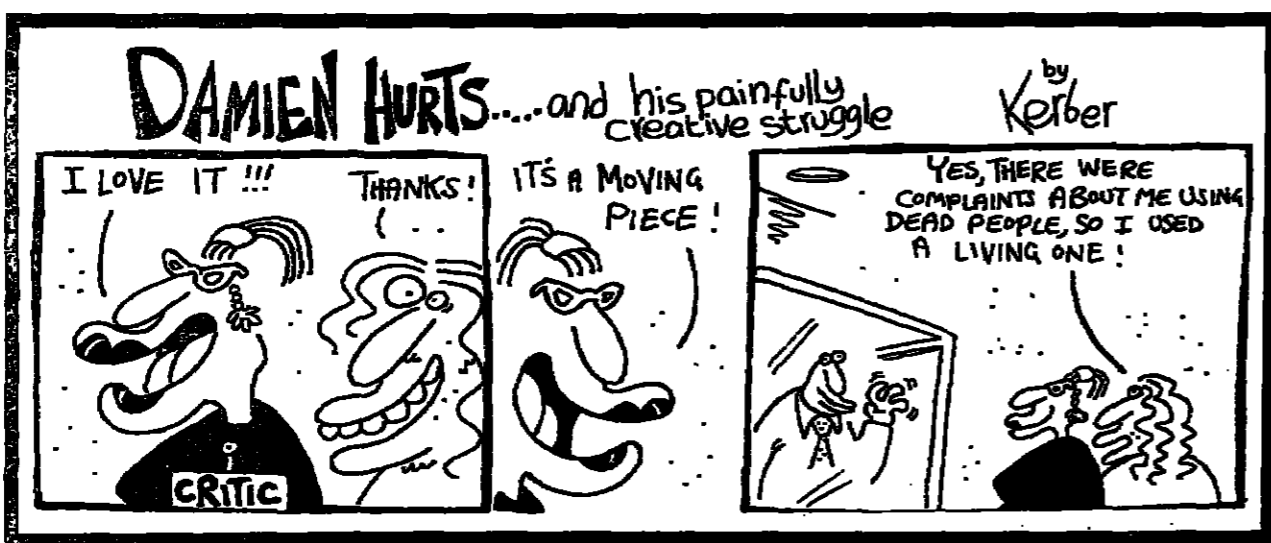
Argentina. As, back in Poland, were Poland.

Barred from the party and sent along to the match itself was the commentator Jonathan Pearce. He was hired from Capital Gold for his ability to make watching paint dry sound exciting. This effect is achieved via the simple technique of turning the volume up so high that said paint is stripped even as it dries. He is essentially a local radio ham, which is why his commentary was both a cesspit of nationalism and a statistical goldmine. Radio commentators rely on words to fill the airtime, and unlike their counterparts in television, are not used to letting the football do the work. Thus Pearce had made it his task to ensure that by the final whistle even Jo Guest could name the back four of Legia Warsaw.

At a distant extremity in the galaxy of sports coverage came Cricket - First Test: England v Australia (BBC1 / 2, Thursday). This year's *Wisden* has criticised the BBC for its hopelessly staid Test coverage - lo and behold, the Corporation has discovered razzmatazz. In between occasional balls, an inset on your screen will randomly deliver an interview with a cricketer, then rudely fade it out before the next ball is

bowled. Then, at the end of each session, someone on the boundary rope with a microphone will nab a player and squeeze him dry of clichés. And in the middle of the ten interval, rather than go in for anything as piffing as match analysis after perhaps the most exciting first two sessions in Ashes history, they will give you 10 minutes of a 12-year-old innings from David Gower.

For those who wonder what the gentleman / players divide must have been like 40 years ago, they need look no further than the varieties of approach by BSKYB and the BBC. At the resumption of the ancient sporting rivalry, Sky would have been on the air since breakfast time, champing at the bit, slavering at the prospect of a red-blooded engagement. The BBC drifted in with just 10 minutes to go till start of play - the scheduling equivalent of a lazy swat outside the off stump. And once on air, the only hint of loin-girded balls germane to most cricket broadcasts was confined to Geoffrey Boycott's comments on fellow tyke Darren Gough, who can clearly expect a proposal of marriage some time during the luncheon interval today. On the plus side, there was a weather report with snazzy graphics, predicting rain. They got that wrong too.

Whatever happened to
The red telephone box?

The moment
Ten years ago this month, the newly-privatised British Telecom pushed ahead with what for many will always be the most dramatic innovation of the digital revolution. It began to demolish its 80,000-strong fleet of red telephone boxes. Heavy doors and the red box's widely recognised role as an alternative public lavatory meant that the atmosphere inside had not always been bracing. Disabled access was non-existent, and thieves were robbing the boxes of £30 million a year. In any case, the new chairman of BT, Sir Iain Vallance, wanted a new image for his company.

Effects
The cull has been relentless ever since. British Telecom has torn out all but 15,000 of Giles Gilbert Scott's classic models. Scott's K2 design, which won the original Post Office commission in 1924, and the smaller, more numerous K6 refinement of 1935, have been replaced by a less popular range of easy-to-clean, difficult-to-roh plastic booths. But BT, which recently persuaded New World Payphones not to establish their own red boxes, has consistently refused to quench the nostalgic thirst of a British public addicted to programmes like *Hamish Macbeth* and *Ballykissangel*.

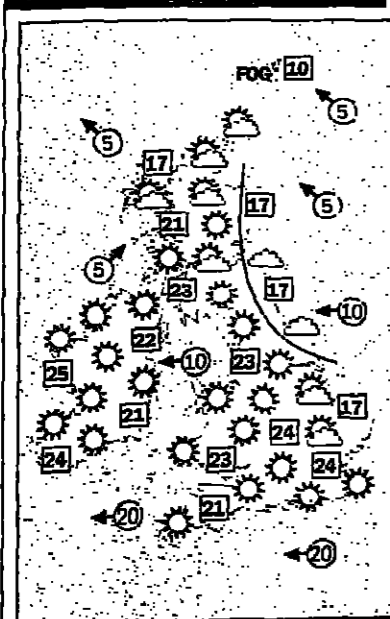
Fightback
Public opinion has never been reconciled with the old red box's successors. Open-air telephone booths were windy and noisy. Mercury's blue and silver phone booths also failed to satisfy. Last year, BT finally answered calls for something more familiar, unveiling a new stainless steel-based payphone with a red-topped roof and a "softer, more rounded" shape.

But even this tribute to the past failed to impress Scott devotee Lord St John of Fawsley, who described it as "illiterate" and "visually incoherent".

The Future?
Westminster City Council has reintroduced the red box to conservation areas, and 2000 originals, mostly in rural areas, were listed by English Heritage in 1988. But otherwise, Scott's creations have found more useful employment as bathroom showers. As for that box in Hamish Macbeth's village of Loch Dubh: in real life, it's privately owned. But never mind - with several telephone companies developing miniature mobile "tele-headsets" that transmit sounds through the cheekbone, we may soon be wondering what all the fuss was about.

Conal Walsh

WEATHER



The British Isles

General Situation and Outlook

Eastern coastal counties of both Scotland and England will start grey with some banks of low cloud. It should brighten up with plenty of warm sunshine by this afternoon, although right on the coast there will be a cool sea-breeze and some troublesome sea mist. Away from these eastern counties, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales will have another hot and sunny day, although sea-breezes will temper the heat on many coasts, and there will be quite a stiff easterly wind along the English Channel.

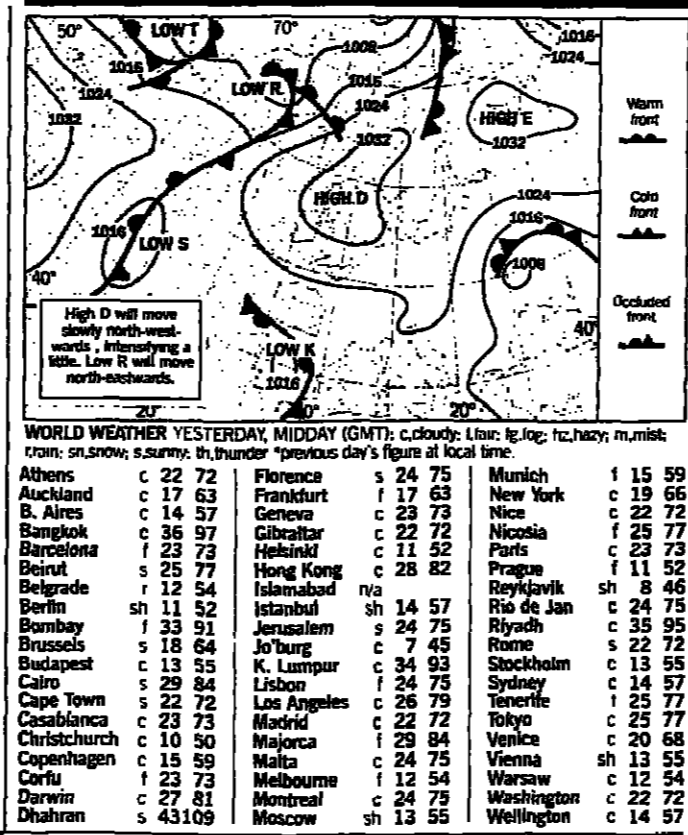
Tomorrow, England and Wales will be dry with plenty of sunshine, but it will be cooler than recently with a blustery wind and a bit more in the way of cloud in the south and east. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have decent amounts of warm sunshine once any mist and low cloud has cleared away. Early next week the dry weather will continue with the sunniest and warmest weather in the west. Eastern counties will be cooler and cloudier.

Aberdeen	18	64	Carlisle	22	72	Isles of Scilly	17	63	Plymouth	20	68
Anglesey	18	64	Cork	18	64	Jersey	20	68	Ronalds	17	63
Belfast	21	70	Dover	16	61	Lincoln	18	64	Scarborough	17	63
Birmingham	22	72	Dublin	19	66	Liverpool	23	73	Shrewsbury	22	72
Blackpool	22	72	Edinburgh	20	68	Lizard	23	73	Southampton	23	73
Bournemouth	22	72	Exeter	20	68	London	23	73	Southend	23	73
Bristol	21	70	Glasgow	21	70	Manchester	23	73	St Andrews	23	73
Cardiff	21	70	Guernsey	18	64	Newcastle	23	73	Stornoway	15	59
			Inverness	20	68	Nottingham	23	73	Three	16	61
			Ipswich	19	66	Oxford	22	72	York	22	72

Lighting-up Times

Today	Tomorrow
London 9:07pm to 4:48am	London 9:08pm to 4:48am
Bristol 9:17pm to 4:58am	Bristol 9:18pm to 4:58am
Birmingham 9:19pm to 4:51am	Birmingham 9:20pm to 4:50am
Manchester 9:26pm to 4:47am	Manchester 9:27pm to 4:46am
Newcastle 9:33pm to 4:35am	Newcastle 9:34pm to 4:34am
Glasgow 9:49pm to 4:40am	Glasgow 9:50pm to 4:39am
Belfast 9:48pm to 4:55am	Belfast 9:49pm to 4:54am

Europe and The World



Air Quality				High Tides				
Outlook for Today				AM	HT	PM	HT	
erate	S London	NO ₂ Moderate	SO ₂ Poor	London	10.02	6.6	22.23	6.4
	S England	Good	Poor	Liverpool	7.22	8.4	20.06	8.2
	W Wales	Good	Good	Abermouth	3.00	11.3	15.35	11.3
	C England	Good	Poor	Hull (Albert Dock)	2.28	7.5	14.36	7.8
	N England	Good	Poor	Greenock	8.25	3.1	21.07	3.1
erate	Scotland	Good	Poor					
	N Ireland	Good	Moderate	Dun Laoghaire	5.37	3.8	20.56	3.7

AA Roadwatch

London, A11 Leytonstone. Lane closures at A12 roundabout until August 1999.

London, A306 Hammerhead Bridge. Closed until January 1998.

Surrey, M25 J8-10. Lane closures both ways until further notice.

Bristol, M5 J18-19. Contraflow on Avonmouth Bridge until August 1998.

Dorset, A348 Tricketts Cross. Roundabout construction until January 1999.

Swansea, A403 Fabian Way. Lane closures both ways until July 8th.

Staffordshire, A50 Stoke On Trent. Major works at Meir until March 1998.

West Midlands, M6 J6 - sliproad from Salford Circus to M6 North closed until January 1998.

Hereford and Worcester, Lunde-down. Cresswell closed due to long-term roadworks until November 1998.

Greater Manchester, Blackley. Major roadworks until May 31st.

West Yorks, M1 J47. Major long-term roadworks until September 15th.

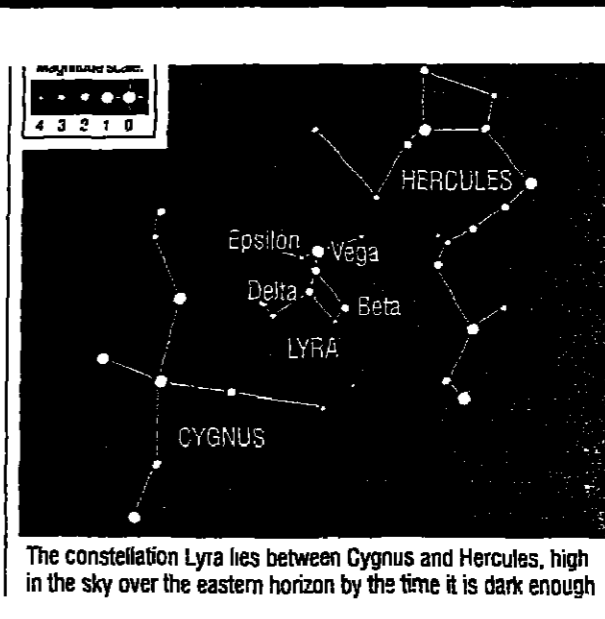
Scotland, Edinburgh, M9 Newbridge. Spur (M8 J2). Major roadworks until further notice.

Outlook for Today	NO ₂	SO ₂
London	Moderate	Poor
S. England	Good	Poor
Wales	Good	Poor
C. England	Good	Poor
N. England	Good	Poor
Scotland	Good	Moderate
N. Ireland	Good	Moderate

Sun and Moon

Sun rises 4:50am	Sun sets 9:07pm
Moon rises 2:34am	Moon sets 3:15pm
New Moon: June 5	

The Sky at Night



The constellation Lyra lies between Cygnus and Hercules, high in the sky over the eastern horizon by the time it is dark enough

The fifth brightest star in the sky, white-hot Vega, adorns in the ancient constellation Lyra. Tradition has it that the god Jupiter placed in the sky the lyre of the legendary musician Orpheus, who had met a gory end, torn limb from limb by women whose advances he scorned! For amateur astronomers, this star-studded instrument still has entertainment value. A small telescope resolves Beta Lyrae as a double. But the brighter object is an eclipsing binary on a 13-day cycle. As this pair waltz around each other in a close embrace, there's dimming of as much as a magnitude down from a peak of mag. 3.3. Delta and Epsilon are also easy to see as double stars in binoculars. Delta is an accidental alignment of two unrelated stars, while Epsilon is in reality a rare example of a true quadruple star: a high-powered telescope reveals both "stars" as double again.

Jacqueline Mitton

الجمعة ٦ يونيو ١٩٩٧

TODAY'S TELEVISION

Gerard Gilbert recommends Stone, Scissors, Paper Sat 9.35pm BBC2

Now we know where Tony Blair got the idea of walking to Downing Street on that magnificent Friday morning last month. Not from Peter Mandelson; not from Cherie - but from Harry Perkins.

Harry who? Which your minds back to 1988, to the dark old days of Tory hegemony, to A Very British Coup (Sat C4) - Alan Plater's adaptation of Chris Mullin's conspiracy thriller, Harry Perkins, played by the late Ray McAnally, was the former Sheffield steel-worker who became Prime Minister on a radical Old Labour platform. He was a Tony Benn with the common touch; a comforting Labour fantasy for the wilderness years. I wonder if Blair enjoyed the series.

This is an inspired piece of scheduling from Channel 4. It's interesting to compare the events of the past six weeks with Plater and Mullin's vision of what would happen if Labour

won a thumping great majority. It looks a bit on the paranoid side now, perhaps, and Keith Allen makes an unlikely Peter Mandelson. Perkins, by the way, entertains the US Secretary of State to a Sheffield Wednesday football match instead of Le Pont de la Tour. Clinton got off lightly.

From Old Labour to a fine new drama - Stone, Scissors, Paper (Sat BBC2), a love story written by Richard Cameron which has won the BBC's Dennis Potter Film of the Year Award. Juliet Stevenson - a superb actress whom one nevertheless often verges on finding rather annoying (perhaps it's just all those quiveringly drippy characters she plays) - is Jean, a battered wife taking refuge in clearing out her dead mother's house. Ken Stott (*Takin' Over the Asylum*) is Redfern, a soulful stonemason whose marriage has solidified into one long round of menial chores, meal-times and pottering

about in his shed. Jean and Redfern discover in each other a kindred spirit, but in the small community in which they live, the shrapnel from this affair flies off in all sorts of dangerous directions. The writing is spare and truthful, and if you want to see how far *Coronation Street* has strayed into the realms of fantasy, compare and contrast with the current Sally-Kevin-Natalie ménage à trois.

On the subject of spouse, Dale Winton, who recently disappeared from *National Lottery Live* (which, to be honest, wasn't well suited to his talents), now pops up to front *The Other Half* (Sat BBC1). Nestling into the *Generation Game*/ *Pets Win Prizes* niche, contestants have to use their powers of deduction to guess their opponents' partners. No preview tapes exist, but the thought occurs that this might make a good gauge of one's relationship. I mean, if nobody can find a reason why

a couple is together, then maybe that says something. Then again, we are talking Light Entertainment.

When it comes to permanent rifts, you can't beat Antarctica. Apparently, an area of ice 200m deep and the size of the United Kingdom has recently melted into the sea. The cutting edge, quite literally, of global warming, the South Pole is turning into a potential destination for Club Med. If you don't believe me, check out *Antarctica on the Edge* (Sun C4).

Tectonic shifts elsewhere, as Hong Kong prepares to change masters. *Riding the Tiger* (Sat C4) introduces us to various players - civil rights activist, pro-Beijing politician, newspaper magnate - and Mrs Leung, a small shopkeeper. It's the powerless Mrs Leung who is most fatalistic - and perhaps, the authentic voice of old China. Will the vibrant voice of Hong Kong change all that?

BBC 1

7.00 Children's BBC: Harry and the Hendersons. 7.25 News, Weather. 7.30 Felix the Cat. 7.45 Babar. 8.00 The 5th Musketeer. 8.35 The Flintstones. 9.00 Phantom 2040. 9.20 The Incredible Hulk. 9.45 Gargoyles. 10.10 Sweet Valley High. 10.35 The O Zone. 10.42 Weather (673557). 10.45 Grandstand (S) (6734842). 10.50 Cricket - First Test: England v Australia. Live coverage of the third day's play in the First Cornhill Insurance Test Match from Edgbaston (78445026). 1.05 News (45750533). 1.10 Golf: the early stages and semi-finals of the Amateur Championship from Sandwich (23489674). 1.35 Cricket (64672552). 3.40 Golf (5472262). 4.00 Cricket (9442736). 4.50 News Round-Up (6441113). 5.20 News, Weather (7) (7181736). 5.30 Local News, Weather (413129). 5.35 Cartoon (118281). 5.45 Dad's Army. These lovely old repeats continue as Mainwaring lets Frazier take over command in a bid to end his gurning (R) (729649). 6.20 The New Adventures of Superman (S) (790262). 7.05 The Other Half. See Preview, above (S) (109281). 7.45 The National Lottery Live. Terry Wogan makes the introductions, and posters A2 Yet get invaluable exposure (S) (954991). 8.05 Jonathan Creek. Another mystery for Alan Davies and Caroline Quentin. When a renowned doctor and cancer researcher is discovered dead inside a locked room, how can he have been there? (S) (954991). 9.05 Casualty. The staff at Holby struggle to save Jude's life as the police try to find her attacker in another of these selected repeats (R) (558494). 9.55 News and Sport, Weather. (7) (955842). 10.15 Boomerang (Reginald Hudlin 1992 US). A boomerang that did not return Eddie Murphy's career to its mid-1980s zenith, this out-of-control sex comedy miscestrade Murphy as a womanising advertising executive who gets his come-uppance when executive Robin Givens (the former Mrs Mike Tyson) starts using him as a sex object. Despite the girl-power premise, this is often crudely sexist stuff. Livey comes, though, from Grace Jones and Eartha Kitt (445303). 12.05 Top of the Pops (S) (8093595). 12.35 Brass Tacks (John Hough 1978 US). Complicated but ill-fused twist set in 1945 Germany, imagining that American Patton was murdered as part of a massive gold bullion heist. Sophia Loren, George Kennedy, John Cassavetes and Max Von Sydow lead the all-star cast (899408). 2.25 Weather (2242576). To 2.30am.

BBC 2

6.20 Open University: Scenes from Dr Faustus by Christopher Marlowe Part Two (3532674). 6.45 Man-Made Macromolecules (7439533). 7.10 The Politics of Equal Opportunity (9165026). 8.00 Open Saturday (628465). 10.30 MenZoo. Presented by Quentin Willson (S) (6817129). 10.35 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson checks out new sports car models, while Quentin Willson looks at secondhand BMWs in an effort to find the best value from the old 3 Series (R) (S) (7) (593823). 11.20 My Brilliant Career. Rather speaks about his career in the jewellery business (R) (S) (7) (8104571). 11.55 Hancock's Half Hour. Sid falls in love with a clipper on the 93 bus route (R) (6792484). 12.30 Film 97 with Barry Norman. *Can Air*. The Fifth Element and Crash are re-Bazza'd (R) (S) (7) (88533). 1.00 Tennis. Live coverage from the Roland Garros stadium of the French Open Championship Women's Final between Martina Hingis and the Croatian ninth seed, Eva Majoli (773129). 4.00 Alias Smith and Jones (R) (9440378). 4.50 Cricket - First Test: England v Australia. Live coverage (S) (61245571). 6.30 Correspondent. In the second of two special editions to mark the handover of Hong Kong to the Chinese, Kate Adie reports from a Taiwanese frigate on the island's determination to resist China's attempts at reunification. Julian Peter returns to Canton in southern China to examine the changes since his first visit 27 years ago; Julie Flint meets Uigher separatists from Kazakhstan, and Matt Frei investigates a Macao casino king (S) (7) (589378). 7.15 News and Sport, Weather (254858). 7.25 The Railway. Second of two films looking at the planning of a high-speed rail link between London and the Channel Tunnel. Enter the private sector (S) (848668). 8.15 Prohibition: 13 Years That Changed America. Second programme in this handsome series about the prohibition of alcohol in 1920 and 1930s America. The myth that Eliot Ness was untouchable - and looks at how the crime wave headed by Al Capone gradually convinced Americans that prohibition had failed (S) (7) (609216). 9.05 Have I Got News for You. Germaine Greer and Jim Davidson are the repeated last guests of the present series (S) (7) (566571). 9.35 Stone, Scissors, Paper. See Preview, above (S) (7) (174465). 11.00 Later with Jools Holland. With Primal Scream, Suzanne Vega, Placebo, Del Amitri, and a rare performance from Bostons' Taj Mahal (S) (652681). 12.05 Cricket - First Test: England v Australia. Highlights of the third day's play at Edgbaston (S) (8159458). 12.45 Struck by Lightning (Lerzy Domaradzki 1990 US). Livey, unsentimental comedy drama starring Brian Vriends as a young physical education teacher who takes a job in a workshop for adults with Down's syndrome. Confronting a restrictive system, he starts a crusade to improve their lives (70885). To 2.25am.

ITV/Carlton

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News. 6.10 Professor Bubble. 6.30 Barney and Friends. 6.50 Our House. 7.10 The Wuzzles. 7.40 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.55 Power Rangers Zeo. 9.25 Mashed (S) (8358194). 11.30 The Chair Show (S) (71113). 12.30 Mad Science. Fred Talbot investigates stop-motion animation (88587). 1.00 News, Weather (7) (45859858). 1.05 London Weekend Today (45858129). 1.10 Cartoon Time (45775842). 1.15 Seaquest (S) (2366649). 2.10 The Plank (Eric Sykes 1967 UK). Eric Sykes and Tommy Cooper star in this slapstick favourite expanded from a wordless TV short (3942600). 3.00 The BRAT Patrol (Mollie Miller 1986 US). Disney children's adventure with Sean Astin (47669129). 4.50 News, Sport, Weather (7) (2568939). 5.05 London Weekend Tonight (3743113). 5.20 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (S) (7) (8909587). 5.35 Watching. An episode of the romantic sitcom starring Emma Wray (315007). 6.05 New Baywatch (S) (7) (806262). 7.00 You've Been Framed (R) (S) (7) (7484). 7.30 Stars in Their Eyes. The live final, featuring impersonations of Jarvis Cocker, Louis Armstrong, Lulu, Jon Bon Jovi, Olivia Newton John, REM's Michael Stipe and more (S) (82674). 9.00 An Evening with Lily Savage. The scouse drag queen entertains a celebrity audience (R) (S) (7) (593823). 10.00 News, Weather, Lottery Result (7) (394216). 10.15 Stars in Their Eyes Live Final - Result (S) (7) (936736). 10.35 The International Match - Tournoi de France: France v England. Bob Wilson introduces highlights of France v England from Montpellier (494533). 11.35 The Natural (Barry Levinson 1984 US). Disappointing attempt to make a mystical epic about baseball - suffering from too much soft focus, slow motion and back-lighting. Robert Redford is the slugger going for glory, as Glenn Close and Kevin Costner are his love and his rival (S) (63196484). 2.00 Bob Office America (19175). 2.30 Club Night (R) (S) (7) (6453021). 3.30 Dating the Enemy (R) (S) (8144595). 4.20 Night Shift (R) (S) (96263427). 4.35 ITV Sports Classics (81126408). 5.00 Cybernet (88868). To 5.30am.

Channel 4

6.40 Miraculous Mellops (R) (7538858). 7.05 Sonic the Hedgehog (R) (S) (2588113). 7.35 Creepy Crawlers (S) (7) (832161). 8.00 Transworld Sport (R) (22858). 9.00 Morning Line. A look ahead to the day's racing (S) (54736). 10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (39842). 11.00 NBA Finals (S) (26378). 12.00 The Tall Tales (Anthony Mann 1951 US). Taut and terrific, this is costume drama played as film noir, with Dick Powell as the Pinkerton detective assigned to protect President Abe Lincoln from assassination as he travels from Baltimore to Washington to be inaugurated (7) (8283129). 1.25 Channel 4 Racing: The Derby from Epsom. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 218th Derby from Epsom, including 2.00 Vodka "Dash" Stakes, 2.30 Vodafone Dined Stakes, 3.00 London Car Telephones Handicap Stakes, 3.45 Vodafone Derby Stakes, 4.30 Talkland Stakes (24785823). 9.35pm BBC2 'Stone, Scissors, Paper' Love story: Juliet Stevenson and Ken Stott become soulmates. 5.05 Brookside Omnibus (S) (7) (4151587). 6.35 Channel 4 Racing. The highlights from this afternoon's Derby (S) (7) (583007). 7.00 Riding the Tiger. See Preview, above (7) (3991). 8.00 Popeye (Robert Altman 1980 US). Not as bad as they say - Altman's cluttered and mostly untidy recreation of the spinach-muzzling sailor (Robin Williams) has its moments. And if ever a piece of casting did itself, it was Shelley Duvall as Olive Oyl (29545026). 9.50 HomeLife: Life on the Street (7) (559649). 10.45 A Very British Coup. See Preview, above (R) (7) (684623). 12.45 Roadkill (Bruce McDonald 1989 Can). The surreal story of an odyssey through Northern Ontario in search of a missing rock band (323040). 2.20 The New Twilight Zone. A writer who returns to his childhood home seeking inspiration and finds himself back as a boy again (7297758). 2.45 Jack and Jeremy's Real Lives (R) (7) (71311). 3.15 Get Up, Stand Up (R) (S) (7) (71311). 3.45 Porque (R) (S) (7) (70682). 4.15 Film Night (R) (7) (787391). 4.55 Let the Blood Run Free (R) (5886311). 5.40 NBA Finals (S) (8323953). To 6.35am.

Channel 5

6.00 Dappledown Farm (4290002). 6.30 Attractions. Tim Vincent and some ideas for the weekend (R) (1691939). 7.00 5 News Early (S) (3664216). 7.30 Havalakazeo: Wimples the House (3570823). 8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (8789823). 8.30 Land of the Lost. A Channel 5 planning meeting (8788194). 9.00 Beverly Hills, 90210 (S) (742052). 9.55 Beverly Hills, 90210 (S) (8592026). 10.50 Mag Upfront: Anything's Possible. Young actors re-enact childhood traumas suffered by celebrities. Star of *Point4 Children*, Gary Olsen is this week's subject (80609804). 11.00 Turnstyle. Dominik Diamond and Gail McKenna look ahead to the England rugby union team's second Test match against Argentina, the first cricket Test between England and Australia and the French Open tennis finals (78432587). 12.50 5 News. (S) (7) (26211026). 1.00 The Mag. Josie D'Arby introduces the afternoon entertainment slot for young people (S) (5210656). 2.00 USA High. Teenage sitcom about the students of an American school in Paris (S) (19900571). 2.20 The Mag (Continued) (S) (272823). 3.15 Sunset Beach Omnibus (21448026). 6.00 5 News and Sport (S) (7) (4359113). 6.05 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (S) (2057804). 6.55 Night Fever. Karaoke quiz show featuring Catalina Guirado, Julia Bradbury, Linda Lusardi, Philippa Forrester, Jonathan Morris and John Altran, among others (S) (4375910). 7.50 5 News and Sport (S) (7) (7676668). 8.10 Turnstyle: International Rugby Argentina v England. Coverage of England's second Test against Argentina from Buenos Aires, the final game of their six-match tour. With commentary by Chris Rea and expert analysis by England international Damian Hopley (S) (7) (0386533). 10.00 Kickboxer (Mark DiSalle and David Worth 1989 US). Jean-Claude Van Damme mangles the English language in a tedious flick which still somehow managed to rescue his career from the video shelf (8065397). 11.50 Poltergeist: The Legacy (S) (2871465). 1.25 Sweet William (Claude Whatham 1980 UK). Beryl Bainbridge adapted her own novel for this gentle, meandering drama starring Sam Waterston as the unfaithful lover of London girl Jenny Agutter. It's hard to care about either protagonist, however. Arthur Lowe appears in a cameo, but why bother when you can get unlitteled Dad's Army over on BBC1? (5810595). 3.05 Ladies Who Do (CM Pennington-Richards 1963 UK). An early case of insider trading as cleaner Peggy Mount uses stock market information she finds at work to make money. Robert Morley, Ron Moody and Dandy Nichols are also involved (30849408). 4.30 The Road (21541088). 4.55 Let the Blood Run Free (R) (5886311). 5.30 Whistle (R) (S) (7) (440525). To 6.00am.

ITV/Regions

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